www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XVIII, Issue No. 351 **THURSDAY** DECEMBER 18, 2008



OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the CNMI government should absorb every one of the workers in Immigration who would be replaced under federalization?

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INSIDE



Monroe Auction

A collection of photographs of Marilyn Monroe taken for Vogue magazine the year she died has been auctioned in New York for nearly \$150,000.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

Fitial, legislative leaders meet with India energy firm. PAGE 2 CUC, consultant propose 2-cent power rate hike. PAGE 3

Court denies Villagomez's motions

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

he U.S. District Court for the CNMI has denied the eight motions that Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez filed last week, including the motion to dismiss his criminal indictment

due to a failure to state an offense.

In a ruling issued yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Alex R. Munson maintained that the



indictment sufficiently charges the defendants with conspiracy, wire fraud and See COURT on Page 4

Tinian clinic is 'in crisis'

Due to lack of doctors By KRISTI EATON

The lack of a full-time physician at the Tinian Health Center has become a "crisis," according to the Medical Licensing Board and the Tinian physician assistant.

The Tinian clinic has been without a full time physician on staff since July, when Dr. Ronaldo Toledo resigned.

To cope with the loss, the Medical Licensing Board has repeatedly issued emergency orders allowing physician assistant Terri Clawson to prescribe drugs with certain stipulations, including close supervision by a doctor.

Members of the Licensing Board See TINIAN on Page 4



CAR ACCIDENT

Police officers investigate a car accident that happened around 10am yesterday at the intersection of Kapa Di Opu Street and Middle Road. Chief investigator PO2 Eric David said the blue Toyota RAV4 suddenly crossed the path of an oncoming (northbound) red Toyota Corolla, causing the accident and resulting in the driver of the Corolla losing control of the wheel and falling into the roadside canal. The two female drivers were unhurt.

ON LAWSUIT VS FEDERALIZATION

'Feds presented no new arguments'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE REPORTER

The CNMI's lawyers will review the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the lawsuit against federalization and will file a response by the court's deadline, according to press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. yesterday.

Reyes said that, contrary to the argu-

ments raised in the U.S. government's motion, they believe that the provisions of the federalization law, Public Law 110-29, will have serious adverse consequences for the economy and citizens of the CNMI.

"We look forward to a resolution of the issues by the District Court in Washington DC," Reyes told Saipan Tribune.

See FEDS on Page 4

The governor believes that federalization is the single biggest obstacle to a full economic recovery for the CNMI.

-Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr.





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Local

Fitial, legislative leaders meet with India energy firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com

Governor Benigno R. Fitial will be meeting today with

representatives of a major energy company operating in India that wants to help solve the CNMI's power crisis.

Fitial did not identify the

company, but only described it as a "credible, well-capitalized company that may offer viable energy solutions for the CN-MI's energy crisis."

Fitial has invited Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios to join him in the meeting with the company's representatives at the governor's conference room today at 10am.

In Tuesday's letter to Reyes

and Palacios, the governor underscored the importance of the meeting due to the government's urgent need to collaborate on a solution to the public utility crisis.

"As all of you should know, this administration alone will not be able to address our energy crisis by itself, independently, without the vital support of the Legislative Branch of government," Fitial told the two lawmakers.

Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is going to attend the meeting.

"Anything that would find some way to ease up the hardship of the people that we represent is something that I am very concerned with," Reyes said.

The Senate president said if there is a way to find a company that will provide dependable, uninterrupted power distribution to all residents of the Commonwealth at a very reasonable and affordable rate, then he will support that.

"If this is the company that's going to do that, then I am going to put aside politics," he stressed

On Tuesday, members of the Senate and House committees on Public Utilities, Transportation, and Communication expressed concern whether the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is capable of overhauling the power plant engines on time or will it end up extending the Aggreko contract for temporary generators.

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President, Good Care

EPA presses CUC to comply with regulations as it repairs engines

By KRISTI EATON

kristi_eaton@saipantribune.com REPORTER

More factors continue to come into play as the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. races against the clock to rehabilitate the engines at Power Plant 1.

One of the stipulations regarding the reprogramming of \$3.8 million in federal funds for the restoration of Power Plant 1 is ensuring all federal environmental laws and regulations are complied with.

Michael Mann, CNMI Program Manager for the EPA, said that CUC does not currently need an operating permit for Power Plant 1 because the federal environmental laws requiring permits were created after the power plant existed. It is un-

clear, Mann said, what type of permits would be required for any significant rehabilitation of the engines, but EPA plans on working with the utility agency.

"It's entirely dependent on the scope of the issue," he said.

Officials from the Office of Insular Affairs, which is reprogramming the money, did not return requests for comment by press time.

One assumption that the EPA is working under is that the emergency Aggreko generators will be used for one year. The \$6-million contract expires in September 2009 but allows for a six-month extension.

The Aggreko engines currently do not have environmental permits, an issue that is still ongoing, Mann said. EPA staff

suit against CUC filed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the EPA. The suit, filed in NMI District Court in November,

within the Air Emissions Division is still reviewing materials and should provide feedback in January, he added.

"We're working under the assumption it's a 12-month contract," Mann said.

It's hard to say what would happen if the Aggreko contract was extended, he said, adding that the EPA does realize the situation was an emergency.

Mann, along with John Mc-Carroll, manager of the EPA Pacific Southwest region's Pacific Islands office, met with CUC executive director Antonio Muña last week to discuss the permits as well as the civil suit against CUC filed by the U.S. Department of Justice and the EPA. The suit, filed in NMI District. Court in November

claims the utility agency has committed violations against the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act. The suit was accompanied by two stipulated orders, which means that the CNMI government agreed to the terms and conditions being required of it by the EPA. The stipulated orders need to be signed by the court.

"I think that EPA, we're very hopeful through the stipulated order, it can achieve some real progress," Mann said.

He said there are no restrictions on where the money comes from to comply with the stipulated orders, so federal money could be used. EPA has provided technical service to CUC for many years and will continue to do so, he added.

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ex-justice on economic summit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie delatorre@saipantribune.

Senate President Pete P. Reyes and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios are planning to hold a meeting with retired justice Jose S. Dela Cruz, who had called for a CNMI economic summit.

Reves and Palacios, who expressed support for the idea, will meet with Dela Cruz to find a way to set up a working group that will formulate some research and finalize a methodology in order to push through with the conference.

"But we need to lay a foundation so that there would be cooperation. They would be working in harmony with all the leaders in the Commonwealth because we need to put our heads together to try and make this summit work," said Reyes in an interview with Saipan Tribune yesterday.

In a recent letter to the editor, Dela Cruz said government and business leaders should rise to the occasion and take charge of the economic predicament that the CNMI is now in by calling for a major economic conference.

"The purpose of such working economic conference is to address and try to correct the CNMI economic downturn that we have been in for several

on the need to immediately conduct the summit "because things are not working out the way it

"There is a need for leaders to get together, and this summit will bring them together, with one focus: start addressing the economic situation," he said.

The Senate president said he doesn't believe that there has been a similar type of summit held here other than the conference called by the Department of the Interior to promote the island nations.

"Who knows, maybe somebody out there has an idea that will work to resolve the crisis situation that we are facing. We just need to hear that and put them into motion," he said.

Reves said he is sure that all the leaders, including Gov. Benigno Fitial, will support the idea.

"We don't want to wait until it is too late. We can still do something about it. Let's do it now!" the senator said.

In 2005, a group of local organizations and businesses sponsored the Marianas Roundtable Economic Summit in response to the economic setback being experienced in the CNMI.

The recommendations made by that summit included making the CNMI Asia's portal to the U.S. market, creating a centralized economic development committee, and enhancing the

Legislative leaders to meet with CUC, consultant propose 2-cent power rate hike

Officials from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the Georgetown Consulting Group are recommending that the Public Utilities Commission set the new power rate at \$0.22989 per kilowatt-hour, in addition to the set base rate.

The new rate, which would go into affect Jan. 1, 2009, would be a 2-cent increase over

Commerce eyes Gardenia as biz incubator

By KRISTI EATON

REPORTER

The Department of Commerce is looking at acquiring the Pacific Gardenia Hotel in order to create a small business development center to help local entrepreneurs.

Commerce Secretary Michael Ada made the proposal to the board of directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority yesterday.

General businesses would be housed upstairs while the downstairs restaurant would be used as part of the local culinary arts program.

"The hope is to provide the community the opportunity to not rely on foreign investments as a way of sustaining the economy. To diversify the economy," Ada said. There are a lot of entrepreneurs who might want to get into business but can't."

He said the Commerce Department would devote two of its personnel from the foreign investment division, which will close June 1, to the new center.

Ada asked the CDA to contribute \$25,000 to assist in the

He noted that the CNMI is the only jurisdiction that does not currently have a small business development center. Several reports, most recently the Eco-

mend such a center. "He actually outlines availing of small business assistance through the SBA [Small Business Administration] in one of

nomic Impact study conducted

by Malcolm McPhee, recom-

said of McPhee's report. Gov. Benigno Fitial fully supports the venture, Ada told the directors.

his recommendations," Ada

the December rate of \$0.207.

Currently, CUC changes the fluctuating fuel rate monthly, based on the price of oil. For the month of December the rate was \$0.207; it was \$0.270 in November.

Under the proposed new rate, residential customers using less than 500 kWhs would pay \$0.22989 plus the base rate of \$0.016 per kilowatt-hour, for a total of \$0.24589 per kWh.

The new rate would be the first of the proposed levelized energy adjustment clause, or LEAC. Georgetown and CUC recommend implementing a LEAC that changes every six months.

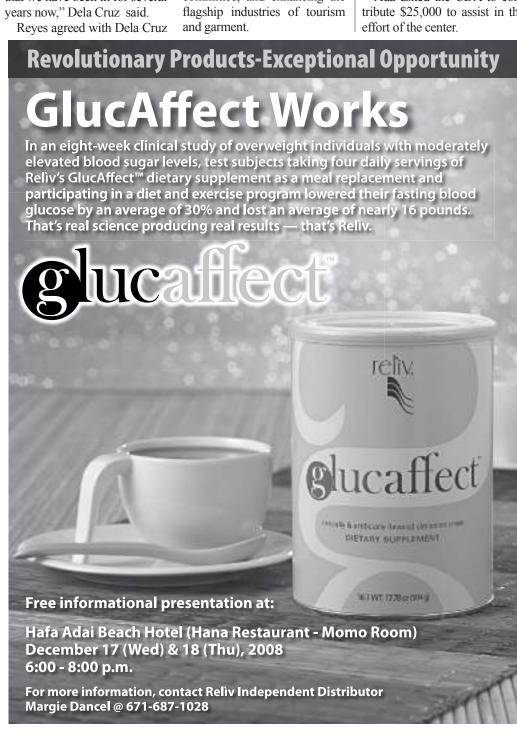
PUC will vote on the changes this weekend. PUC is tasked with setting new rates before Dec. 31, the date set by law, or CUC must roll back rates to \$0.17 per kilowatt-hour.

CUC and Georgetown are rates changed.

recommending the first LEAC only be implemented for three months. The following rates would be set every April 1 and October 1 to coincide with the fiscal year. They also recommend further evaluation before setting new base rates.

The LEAC is based on a formula using four factors. Three factors are totaled: the projected fuel expense for the coming LEAC period; the difference between the fuel revenue and actual fuel expenses as approved by the PUC; and refunds or credits from the supplier, excluding legal settlements. Those factors are divided by the projected retail kilowatthours for the next six months to develop the LEAC rate.

The two parties are also proposing that PUC set a threshold of \$350,000 that, when reached, CUC could petition to have the





Laolao Bay Golf Resort to unveil new clubhouse

Saipan LauLau Development will unveil the new clubhouse at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort in a ceremony tomorrow.

Leading the opening ceremony will be no less than the company's president Yun Kim. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and other government officials and VIPs from the private sector are expected to attend the event.

The construction of the

new clubhouse is part of the \$60-million Golftel project of Saipan Laulau. The investment originally was pegged at \$68 million, but the global recession and the decreasing value of the won prompted Saipan LauLau to scale back the project by \$8 million.

From an original July 1, 2009, completion date, the Golftel project is now penciled to be finished by the end of next year. Feb. 28, 2007.

The company's Golftel project includes the construction of two Golftel towers with 73 condo units, a tee house, staff housing, and the lengthening of the Greg Norman-designed golf course.

Saipan Laulau's parent company, KUMHO Asiana, acquired the sprawling LaoLao Bay Golf Resort property in Kagman on

The 8th largest family-run conglomerate in South Korea, Kumho Asiana has more than two dozen subsidiaries in such industries as automotive, construction, leisure, logistics, real estate development, chemicals, and airlines. Established in 1946, the group's headquarters are in Sinmunro Jongro-gu Seoul, Korea. (Mark Rabago)

FEDS From Page 1

The press secretary said the federal government presented no new arguments in response to the CNMI's lawsuit and its request to stop the implementation of the federalization law.

Citing four main arguments,

the U.S. government, through the Department of Justice, asked the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to dismiss the CNMI's lawsuit.

One of the arguments cited was that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial lacks standing to bring the court action on behalf of the Commonwealth.

The federalization law is set to take effect on June 1, 2009. It provides for the full implementation of federal immigration laws in the Commonwealth.

Reyes said that even before the implementation of federalization, the CNMI is already suffering its adverse economic effects, as investors suspend, curtail, or abandon planned investments as a result of the uncertainty the new law has created.



Reyes

"Federalization, for example, places a maximum cap on the number of workers we can have right now and this hampers investment and economic growth, because a cap on labor is essentially a cap on the CNMI's economic growth," Reyes said.

The press secretary said that Fitial believes that federalization is the single biggest obstacle to a full economic recovery for the CNMI.

"Federalization means our Department of Labor and our Division of Immigration will close down, with all those government employees suffering displacement," he said.

Reyes said federalization also means the CNMI will be losing as much as \$6 million in CNMI Labor, immigration fees, and foreign investment fees under Commerce.

He pointed out that an entire section of Commerce will be closed down and the CNMI will lose substantial fee revenues at a time when the budget is already rapidly contracting.

"Federalization will severely limit our nonresident worker population and take needed workers away from businesses and industry, curtailing investment flows," he said.

Reyes said they expect a severe GDP contraction under federalization, as mentioned in the Government Accountability Office and Conway-McPhee re-

"Federalization also means we could lose our Chinese and Russian markets-markets worth more than \$100 million for us," he added.

TINIAN

From Page 1

voiced concern that Clawson had not been in close contact with Dr. Christine Brown and had prescribed a high number of narcotic drugs, a concern Clawson said she feels is unnecessary.

"I guess I'm a little concerned that you were concerned that I didn't have any daily, twice daily or five times daily phone calls to Dr. Brown," she told members of the board during a meeting, adding that she was comfortable with the work she was doing.

Brown signed off on all the prescriptions after evaluating the charts and notes, Clawson

The issue has brought to light the need for regulations regarding physician assistants and the scope of authority they can have in prescribing narcotics in the CNMI especially in remote locations, said board member Janet Mc-Cullough.

McCullough expressed the need for the Tinian Health Center to find a full-time doctor, the difficult task it may be.

"I think the board certainly understands the hardship and, in fact, we really want to find the right fit. And Tinian is unique as a community and we understand that, but we also would like to emphasize that the situation that Terri has unfortunately found herself in the last several months is not because of any roadblocks we have put up. But because, really, Tinian has not hired a physician," McCullough said.

Joey Hofschneider of THC said the clinic has been actively

recruiting doctors and came close on two occasions. The clinic was about to hire one doctor but received a recommendation not to, he said.

"[The doctor] was right there," he said. "It would have solved all those problems."

"The second one, we really thought we were going to get as of a week ago or two weeks ago," he added. "The mayor and the Tinian Heath Center are mindful of the pressures placed on you [the Licensing Board], you've got to ensure the regs are followed. But the reality is recruiting doctors

on Tinian has been difficult," Hofschneider added

The Tinian clinic is working with the Department of Public Health to try to recruit a doctor to the island, something that has not always been the case, he said.

"What has happened in the past is we had some bad experiences," he said. "At certain points in time, the municipalities of Tinian and Rota would try to bypass the Secretary of Health and try to hire doctors wherever they may be. We recently had two very bad experiences with doctors."

COURT

From Page 1

theft concerning federal funds.

He said the indictment tracks the language of the statutes under which the defendants were charged and spells out enough facts to put the defendants on notice of the charges against

Munson also denied the motion to dismiss the conspiracy charge, saying the transaction is not confusing, unduly prejudicial and does not create an

782567

undue hardship for the defendants. He pointed out that any potential confusion to the jury may be cured with a proper jury instruction.

Earlier, Villagomez argued that the charges against him were fabricated and that the federal court should dismiss the indictment.

Villagomez, former Commerce Secretary James Santos, Joaquina Santos, and former CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero were indicted with conspiring to bilk CUC out

business deals involving needless chemical purchases for

The trial of Villagomez, along with his co-defendants, has been set for March 23, 2009.

Villagomez, through counsel David J. Lujan, filed the eight motions last Dec. 11.

One of the motions urged the court to dismiss the indictment for outrageous government conduct, alleging that the government violated their rights to due process, that the government investigators they were not obliged to speak to them and instead created the appearance that the witnesses were required to cooperate; that investigation was civil in nature and not criminal; and that the investigators enlisted Guerrero to call Villagomez and record the telephone calls.

Munson said, though, that the allegations are "conclusory and unsubstantiated."

The court said the only evidence submitted, which was a transcript of recorded telephone calls, includes no implication of misconduct.

Munson said that "even assuming all of the allegations are true, the actions are far from excessive, flagrant, scandalous, intolerable or offensive."

The federal court also denied the defendant's motion to compel discovery because the government has produced all the documents and discussed the case with the defense counsel.

The court also denied the motion to conduct voir dire, the motion to use a jury questionnaire, and the motion to dismiss joinders as untimely.



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Reyes not running

May not even seek re-election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.con REPORTER

Senate President Pete P. Reyes yesterday set the record straight that he is not running either the position of the governor or the lieutenant governor.

Reyes told Saipan Tribune he feels compelled to go on record that he is not interested in declaring his candidacy for the two top positions in the Commonwealth since a lot of people have been asking him about his plans.

The Senate president also encouraged those interested to run as senators to express their intentions now because at this point he is also considering not seeking re-election next year.

"I am considering not running. I may just support the party and contribute anyway I can to find a way to do something with our economy," he said.

Reyes said he is committed to support the Republican Party, but at this time he is not ready to take sides with any of the candidates for governor and lieutenant governor.

"I know I already have a preference on who I want to support. The important thing here is that I am announcing that I have no plan to run," he said.

The Senate president said he wants to remove any notion that he will be declaring his candidacy.

"I don't feel it is the time for me to run or that there is any desire for me to run for either the governor's or lieutenant governor's position," he said.

Reyes urged people who have been asking and waiting for his commitment to instead support all the candidates running under the Republican banner.

"We need to support our party. I am a Republican so I feel that I owe my loyalty to the Republican Party," he said.

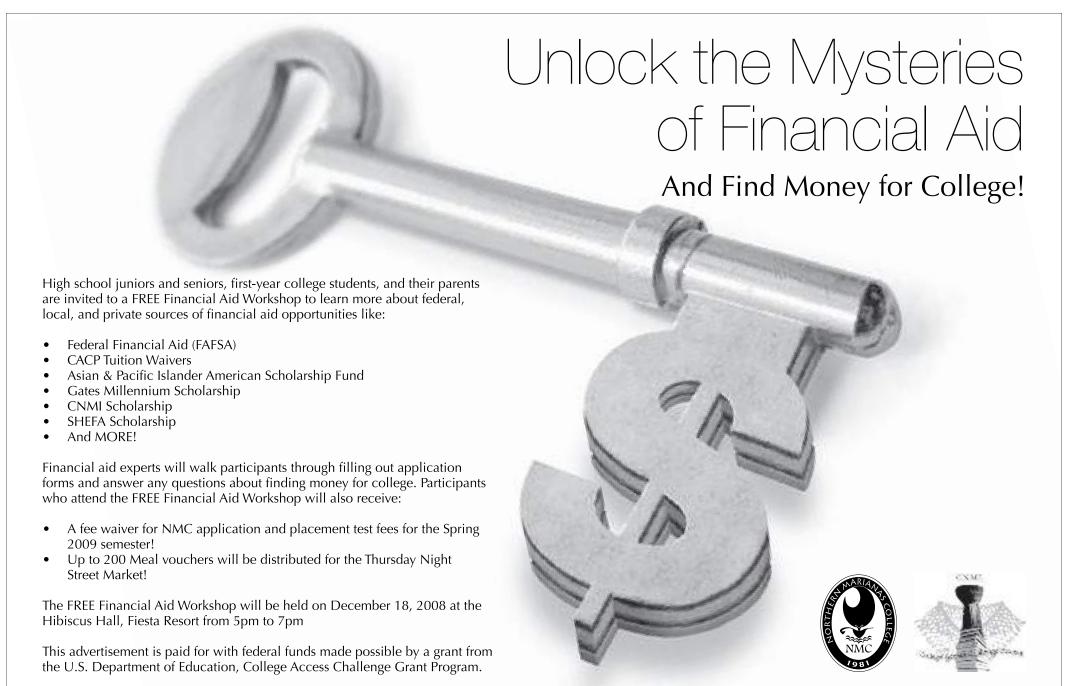
The Senate president said economy is the top challenge for the next governor.

"Everything is around the issue of economy. Our Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is about economy. Everything else is about economy. So we fix the economy, we fix CUC, we fix every other problem that we have," he said. "It doesn't matter which governor. We just need to have the Legislature and the Executive branches working together. That is the most important thing. Put party aside once the election is over."

He said he is proud to say that during his tenure as Senate president, lawmakers managed to put politics aside.

"Our commitment to work with the Executive Branch is based on the desire to find how we can make life easier for our people," he added.





Joeten Kagman Market soft opening tomorrow

mark_rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

The fastest growing village on Saipan will finally have access to a wider variety of grocery items with the expected soft opening of Joeten Kagman Market tomorrow.

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc.'s original plan was to have the Kagman store up and running before the end of the summer but for the many residents of Precinct 5 the arrival of the famous Joeten brand in Kagman couldn't come any sooner, espe-

CNMI National Men's Basketball coach Rufino Aguon said the opening of Joeten Kagman will make grocery rounds easier for residents of the village.

"It's about time. I normally shop at downtown Susupe for fresh vegetables and in Dandan because it's on the way home from work. I'm pretty happy with this development," he said.

Former Board of Education teacher representative Ambrose Bennett, for his part, said the opening of the store will give residents in the area access to cially with Christmas Day just items they don't normally get from the neighborhood stores.

"We have the Kagman Market here, they've been pretty much supplying most of our basic needs and things but for specialty items we have to go downtown to Joeten Dandan or to Susupe."

He added that the opening will also be a boon to consumers because it creates more competition—hopefully sulting in better services and more reasonable prices.

"More competition makes it better for the consumers. So we welcome Joeten. It creates competition in the area and competition is to our advantage as a

consumer. But what I'm hoping is we get more public services here so we don't have to come down for our other needs like banking..." he said.

Kagman Komunidat Association president Jesse Torres, meanwhile, said the opening of

Michael Walters, a journalist

representing WISH magazine

of Australia, spent time on

Saipan last week in a one-day,

whirlwind tour designed to fa-

miliarize him with some of the

island's unique attractions. Wal-

ters is writing an article that will

reflect his impressions of sev-

anticipated that Australians will

have the opportunity to learn

about the World War II histori-

cal sites and nature lookouts of

the Marpi area, Sugar King Park

dedicated to the bustling sugar-

Through WISH magazine, it is

eral Micronesian isles.

Joeten Kagman is but fitting for a village that sorely needs such establishments.

"It saves us a lot of time, money, and gas because it's nearby. Basically Joeten is also known for having variety and that's what we really are looking forward too, plus the employment they're going to offer. Mostly I've never heard anything bad

WISH magazine gets wish to visit NMI

from residents here, they're all excited. We hope more businesses will come here too. We already have a post office, a video shop, and we even have a pawnshop," he said.

It was earlier reported that J.C. Tenorio Enterprises is spending about \$1 million to construct the 5,500-square-foot mediumsized grocery store.

Macaranas elected chair of new CCLPC board

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

n rodriguez@saipantribune.com

The newly appointed members of the Chamorro Carolinian Language Policy Commission have elected William I. Macaranas as chairman of the board.

Macaranas is a former executive director for the CCLPC.

The election was held during the board's first organizational meeting on Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Office on Aging.

The other elected officers of the eight-person board were Vincent M. Rabauliman (vice chairman), Tita Hocog from Rota (secretary) and Ben Boria (treasurer).

The other four members include Maria P. Mafnas, Rosa R.

Warakai, Vivian W. Odoshi and Angelina C. Fitial.

Commission director David R. Omar said the board is tasked to review the new Public Law 15-96, which repealed and re-enacted the Commonwealth Code pertaining to the Chamorro Carolinian Language Policy Commission.

He said the members would also review the existing bylaws for the Commission due to the changes in the mandates of the new law.

The board would also finalize the draft for the criteria for certification of translators.

Omar said that board members expressed their appreciation to the efforts of administrative officer Cindy Reyes for setting up all the meeting.

Reyes served as the interim secretary during the meeting.

Omar said the next meeting for the board is set on Jan. 10, 2009, at the Office on Aging's Conference Room.

In his report to the new board, Omar said the commission had been working with other agencies to further its mission, goals and objectives.

CCLPC is currently involved in the Chamorro Dictionary project.

Acting Department of Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Ramona Rebuenog also graced the occasion to welcome and congratulate the new board in the absence of Cecilia T. Celes.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO Michael Walters of WISH magazine during his tour of the Grotto.

cane industry of the Japanese era in the Marianas, plus the Northern Mariana Islands' Museum of History and Culture. Also visited were the main tourist district of downtown Garapan and other points of interest. Walters also had an opportunity to visit Saipan World Resort's beachfront water park and the Palms Resort Saipan.

WISH magazine circulates 141,000 copies weekly to a readership of about 532,000 through The Australian, Australia's leading national newspaper.

Due to a day of high seas,

Walters' exploration of the Saipan lagoon aboard the submarine Deep Star and his scheduled SCUBA dive of the acclaimed Grotto were cancelled, limiting his admiration of the diving hotspot to the roiling water above.

"Mr. Walters' visit coincides nicely with our joint campaign of 'Magnificent Micronesia' with other Micronesia islands he is visiting," said Perry Tenorio, managing director of the Marianas Visitors Authority. "We are pleased that he will take our message of hospitality back to his readers; we have had a moderate number of tourists from Australia and hope more will choose to visit."

At the conclusion of his visit, Walters said he hopes to come back with more time on his hands to visit the other Northern Mariana Islands of Tinian and Rota and see more of Saipan.

Walters' visit on Dec. 8, 2008, was supported with air travel provided by Cape Air, hotel accommodations provided by Palms Resort Saipan, and lunch hosted by 360 Revolving Restaurant, as well as arrangements for a submarine tour by Pacific Subsea Co. and diving assistance by dive instructor Harry Blalock. (MVA)

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Rehabilitation Council FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670) 322-6537 FAX: (670) 322-6536 TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL: voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Councils' FY 09 1st General Membership Meeting which was originally scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 2008, has been rescheduled for Friday, December 19, 2008 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Hotel at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- Preliminaries
 - A. Roll Call
 - Review & Adoption of Agenda
 - C. Review & Adoption of 6/25/2008 Minutes
- II. Reports
 - A. OVR Director
 - B. SRC Chairman
- III. Old Business
 - A. Vacancy Appointments Status
- IV. New Business
 - A. Election of Officers
 - Committee Chair Appointments
 - Approval of 2009 SRC Resource Plan
- V. Consumer Forum
- VI. Anuouncements/Miscellaneous

VII. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 3226537(voice) or 322-6449(ITY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Councii Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Jesus Elameto SRC Vice-Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

No new trial for woman in marriage scam By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

REPORTER

The court denied on Tuesday the motion for a new trial and acquittal of judgment filed by a woman involved in a marriage conspiracy case.

In his 14-page order, Associate Judge David A. Wiseman also denied Maria Aurelia Ray's motion in June this year seeking for a judgment of acquittal.

The court said it found sufficient evidence to prove that Ray knew the illegality of the marriages.

Ray was convicted on May 23, 2008, of arranging an illegal marriage last year between two couples in exchange for payments and immigration benefits.

Ray was charged with three defendants-Minto other Minto, MD. Saiful Islam and Munnaf Miah in the marriage scam case.

Records also showed that Ray and the other defendants unlawfully agreed to arrange marriages between Islam and Alisilynn Mallens, and between Miah and Severene Kosam for the purpose of obtaining labor and immigration benefits in March 2007.

It would be recalled that on Oct. 15, 2008, Ray filed a supplemental motion to move for a new trial on the grounds of newly discovered evidence.

She reasoned out that defense witness Hilario Angui admitted to lying during his testimony about multiple matters and argued that there is a possibility that she would have been cleared of the case since the government's case rested on the testimony of the witness.

The government said the newly discovered evidence is immaterial to the issue.

The motion was heard on Dec. 2 where attorney Joseph Horrey appeared on behalf of the defendant while assistant attorney general Kathleen Busenkell represented the government.

Wiseman in his order said that he cannot grant a new trial because the defense witness is now prepared to testify truthfully. He said that granting or denying a motion for a new trial is the discretion of the trial court and that a new trail might be granted "if the interests of justice so requires."

Ray, according to Wiseman, admitted having introduced the

couples and discussed payments in exchange for her acquaintances to marry the friends of her husband from Bangladesh.

The court also said Ray knew that additional money would be paid for green cards for her codefendants.



BIRTHDAY SHOUT-OUT

Belated happy birthday greetings go out to Tiana Marie Benavente Muna, who celebrated her birthday her 15th birthday yesterday, Dec. 17. "Wishing you all the best on your special day. May you have many, many more wonderful birthdays to come." Love always, The Benavente and Muna families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 **7**

Communications Today

iConnect launches a revolutionary communications plan for the CNMI.

A first for the CNMI, iConnect has announced an all-new 3000 minute cellular calling plan that also includes unlimited push-2-talk radio, 180 SMS messages and a free phone all for only \$59.00 per month.

"This plan is revolutionary and breaks the standard mold. It's about people communicating and doing business freely without the fear of getting a big bill at the end of each month." says Hans Mickelson General Manager of iConnect Saipan.

New customers will get a free i415 handset, 3000 minutes of airtime, unlimited push-2-talk radio and 180 SMS messages for only \$59.00 per month - with a 24-month subscription. Existing customers can upgrade to this plan by simply extending their contracts.



"My Family Connects" Value Sharing Plans: Connecting Guam's Families

Family Plans start out at a low \$25 a month and includes a free i415, 200 free local/nationwide minutes and 120 free local texts. For new subscribers, \$40 a month, iConnect gives more than \$165 value for only \$40 a month - a free i425 phone valued at \$79, 400 free local nationwide minutes and 300 free

"My Family Connects" Value Sharing Plans also feature Unlimited Push To Talk, Unlimited Nights and Weekends and Rollover Minutes.

iConnect gives Free Bluetooth Headsets

for the Holidays!
iConnect is sharing the benefits of Bluetooth with Free Headsets for their customers

Guam & Saipan, December 3rd, 2008

If you are a frequent cellular or PTT phone user, iConnect has the perfect gift for you - a top-of-the-line Bluetooth headset! For a limited period, any new iConnect customer purchasing or an existing customer renewing 24-month postpaid airtime plan will receive a free Motorola H680 Bluetooth Headset, a \$79.99 value. This headset was recently voted "best voice headset" according to Money Magazine.

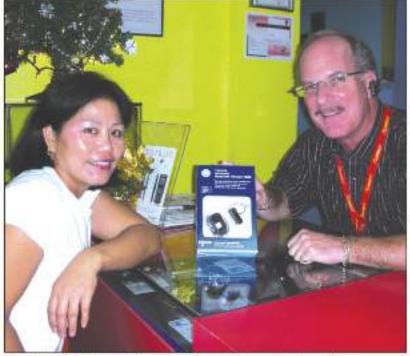
"There are really a number of benefits that can be realized through the use of a Bluetooth headset ." says Matt Giger, Vice President of iConnect. "Safety & convenience are at the top of the list."

iConnect recognizes one of the more significant realities of life - people commonly use their cellular phone units while they are involved in important daily tasks such as working in the office callingfamily members, and of course, driving a car.

Now think about how inconvenient and dangerous it can be to have to fumble around and find your cellular phone in order to take a call. Thanks to a Bluetooth headset - just touch the earpiece and you're connected.

Bluetooth & Multi-tasking

iConnect's primary mission this Holiday Season is to get a



Hans Mickelson, General Manager of IConnect Saipan, showing-off the new Bluetooth Headset.

work and play safer. The island's telecom savvy consumers are in the era of multi-The Bluetooth tasking. headset perhaps is the premier technological development that enhances the ability of a person to communicate conveniently and safely in this age of multi-tasking. Perfect times to use the Bluetooth are when one is preparing for office while getting the kids ready for school, or driving to work and receiving an important call about the day's meetings. iConnect customers can be

doing nearly anything when it

comes to dealing with a phone

call in safety and convenience

through the use of the Blu-

etooth headset, and now it's

Bluetooth headset in the cus-

tomers' hands so they can

Introduction: iConnect's Motorola H680 Bluetooth Headset



Free with every 24-month subscription, a \$79.99 value Voted - "Best Voice Headset" according to Money Magazine

Talk time - up to 8 hrs Stand by time - over 8 days Weight 12g Wireless range - up to 10m (33 ft) Universal – works with

compatible Bluetooth enabled phones

iConnect instantly increases your mobile storage capacity by giving a Free 1 GB credit card size executive USB flash drive with every 12-month postpaid subscription.

Guam & The CNMI, December 3, 2008,

iConnect is giving away a super-thin credit card size1 GB executive USB flash drive, " Everyone needs e-storage and that's phenomenal capacity !" says Giger. . It's the size of your ID Badge or an average credit card. It can be attached to your ID or access card lanyard, which is very convenient. presentations reports, homework or research material, we are all constantly saving things on all types of drives and passing them on to business partner, colleagues and schoolmates.

A couple of years ago this type of flash drive with 1 GB

capacity would be unheard of. One remembers the time when we had to save our files on floppy disks or CDs. Now, iConnect's USB flash drive

Introduction: iConnect's 1 GB Credit Card Size **Executive USB Flash Drive**

simply connects to your

computer's USB port.



Free with a 12-month sub scription Credit Card Thin Special Edition iConnect Logo Item 2008 A \$20 value.

Great Plans, Great Phone Prices



Postpaid FREE with any plan Prepaid

only \$33 with \$30



only \$48.88 with any plan

Prepaid only \$78.88 with \$12.50



Postpaid only \$38.88 with any plan

Prepaid only \$88.88 with \$12.50

Bluetooth Phones Galore



Postpaid only \$78.88 with any plan

Prepaid ony \$138.88 with \$30



Postpaid only \$100 with IKEEP 968.88 or higher plans on 24 month contract

Regular Price \$340 \$200



Postpaid only \$100 with IKEEP \$68.88 or higher plans on 24 month contract

Hepular Price \$320 \$260



Postpaid only \$190 with IKEEP \$68.88 or higher plans on 24 month contract

Ham her Price \$400 \$300



isten, Motorola H680 Bluetooth Headset from iCON



Workshop participants to get NMC waivers

aid information and assistance. those who attend tonight's financial aid workshop will also qualify to receive a waiver of the application and placement test fees for the Northern Marianas College's Spring 2009 semester. The waivers represent a savings of up to \$75.

The financial aid workshop, which is free to the public, will be from 5pm to 7pm on Dec. 18, 2008, at the Fiesta Resort's

In addition to receiving financial Hibiscus Hall. Financial aid specialists will be personally assisting participants in filling out federal financial aid forms and scholarship applications so that those planning on attending college can maximize the aid they can receive from various local and federal sources of scholarships. The workshop will also feature presentations from current college students and prominent college graduates.

The financial aid workshop

is sponsored as part of the Col- of educational activities and lege Access Challenge Project, which aims to increase college enrollment and retention among the CNMI's public high school graduates. The Project will also be awarding direct financial aid in the form of need-based grants and tuition and fees assistance to qualified participants. The grant will be complemented by academic support services, which will include tutoring, personal counseling, and a variety

workshops to prepare students for success in college.

Administered by NMC, the Project will draw from the expertise of the College's staff, other students, and local financial aid representatives. NMC staff will also assist students with admission and financial aid applications.

The CACP is funded by a federal grant under the U.S. Department of Education. (NMC)

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

December 18, 1998

CNMI freezes hirings from China

Due to the refusal of the Beijing government to cooperate in accepting the return of its nationals deported from the commonwealth, the Northern Marianas has suspended indefinitely the issuance of entry permits to citizens of the People's Republic of China. This is the first time that the administration has taken a strong stance against the influx of Chinese nationals onto the islands whose growing presence in CNMI has worried both local and federal officials. Majority of the illegal aliens deported by the Department of Labor and Immigration are Chinese who either lack skills to qualify for employment or necessary working permits.

Health chief fires back at critics

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez issued a counterattack on critics who said the medical tests for foreign workers were in fact veiled attempt at raising money for the government. "All those accusations of certain people about our way of trying to make money for the government are just hogwash. It really bothers me to hear leaders supposedly of certain sectors in the community telling us that it's our way of making money for the government. That money never came to the Department of Public Health," Villagomez said. "We're not here to make money. I think if anything - just \$2 or \$3 went to the department for processing and moving things around," he added.

December 18, 2000

CNMI appeals for Bush's assistance

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said on Friday he is looking forward to working with President-elect George W. Bush to enhance relations with the CNMI and federal government. Citing his administration's policy of constructive engagement with federal officials despite differences on labor and immigration issues, the local chief executive asked the incoming U.S. leader to help the islands, particularly in the economy. "We will continue to follow that policy and we're looking forward to working with the new administration," he told reporters in an interview after the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the new Kagman Community Center.

Teno flies to Manila to receive Philippine **Presidential Award**

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio flew to Manila yesterday to receive a prestigious award from Philippine President Joseph Estrada for his commitment to promote the well-being and uplift the conditions of thousands of Filipinos in the Northern Marianas. Tenorio's trip to the Philippines coincides with the signing of the amended version of the existing bilateral labor agreement, which aims to further improve the working and living conditions of Filipino workers on the islands. The governor was accompanied by Philippine Consul Julia C. Heidemann, along with officials of the CNMI Department of Labor and Immigration headed by Secretary Mark Zachares who will meet with their counterparts from Manila for the labor pact.

December 18, 2001

Home haven no more for kids

Three members of a family residing in the Dandan homestead area were placed under investigation on complaints that they sexually and physically-abused a 12-year old female relative. The child abuse complaint, filed before the Department of Public Safety, alleged that the male suspects, aged 18 and 26, sexually molested the minor on August 10 and September 7, 2001, after midnight hours inside their residence. The men allegedly fondled her private parts while other family members were asleep.

Economic gloom plugs up shoppers from spending

Changes in the spending habit of consumers have forced commercial establishments and retail outlets to sell items at really low prices in order to reach sales target during the holidays. With a few days left before Christmas day, people are rushing to stores throughout the island for their holiday shopping and are now met with aggressive promotion and marketing efforts. Businesses are scrambling over the dwindling number of customers who have evidently practiced frugality notwithstanding the traditional extravagant shopping sprees during the holidays.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Sr. Remedios school calendar of events

The Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center will be having its Christmas Program today, Dec. 18, at 9am on the school grounds. The attire of the children will be casual with a Santa hat. Parents may take their child home after the program. Daycare is still available on this day.

On Dec. 19, the school will have its school Christmas Party and fun day. It will be a regular school 7:30am to 11:30pm. Attire for this day will also be casual. Daycare is still available on this day.

Classes will resume on Jan. 5, 2009. (PR)

COJHS holds Parent Literacy Night today

The Chacha Ocean View Jr. High School will be having its 1st Parent Literacy Night today, Dec. 18, from 5pm to 7pm. We are encouraging all COJHS parents to attend this event. Students are also welcome to attend, only if their parents are also attending. Should you have any questions and/or comments, call 237-3921 or 664-4100. (PR)

Marianas High School schedule

Dec. 24–Jan. 2 No classes (Christmas break) For questions and concerns contact 237-3206. (PR)



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"Bet with your head, not over it"

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 9





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Combo 37 oz.
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Opinion



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MEMBE

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Iraq to Bush: Shoe

hoes make news surprisingly often. Think Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev at the U.N. General Assembly in 1960, brandishing his shoe at a Filipino delegate who was accusing the U.S.S.R. of imperialism in Eastern Europe. Speaking of the Philippines, think first lady Imelda Marcos and her 1,060 pairs of shoes that made footwear a symbol of the excesses of the Marcos regime.

President-elect Barack Obama often is said to be walking in the shoes of Abraham Lincoln or Franklin D. Roosevelt. Obama was caught with holes in the bottom of his own shoes, just like fellow Illinois politician Adlai Stevenson, while Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin was taken to task for strutting expensive clothes and shoes on the vice presidential campaign trail. British Prime Minister Tony Blair confronted his political opposition in the House of Commons each week for 10 years wearing expensive, handmade Church's that he called his "lucky shoes."

Lucky would not be the word to describe the Iraqi journalist who reportedly was beaten before his arrest for hurling two shoes at President Bush during a news conference with Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki in Baghdad on Sunday. As he threw the first shoe, Muntather Zaidi yelled that it was "the farewell kiss, you dog!" The second, he said, was "from the widows, the orphans and those who were killed in Iraq." Bush successfully ducked the projectiles, if not the anti-imperialist insult. Although hardly a compliment in the West, a shoe in the face is a particular affront in the Arab world. After the U.S. invasion in 2003, Iragis frequently slapped their shoes against portraits and statues of Saddam Hussein. Now, the shoe is on the other foot, so to speak. Zaidi embarrassed the prime minister by attacking Bush, thereby violating the Middle Eastern tenet that hospitality includes protecting your guest. Zaidi could face up to seven years in prison on charges of insulting the Iraqi state.

Many Iraqis, however, took to the streets on Monday to hail Zaidi as a hero. Tens of thousands of Iraqis have died in the 5 1/2-year war, and anger about the U.S. occupation is widespread, even among those who view the presence of U.S. troops as a necessity to avoid further sectarian conflict. Many of those demanding the journalist's release chanted, "Bush, Bush, listen well: We pushed you out with two shoes." The good news for Bush is that the assailant hurled shoes, not bombs. That's impolite, but it's still a measure of progress in the violent politics of Iraq. This was an act of protest with a shoe laced with blame. Bush made light of the incident, saying all he could report was that the shoe was "a size 10." Many Iraqis thought the shoe fit.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



What's important to you?

ou're witnessing the U.S. take drastic measures to borrow billions in an attempt to stimulate a worsening economy. You can pretty much count on the U.S. to carefully reconsider why they should continue to send the same level of financial assistance to the CNMI.

The CNMI has spent itself into a position of dependence on outside support, and Saipan does not have billions, or even millions to attempt to bolster its economy. The best that this government can do is to rob Peter to pay Paul and use smoke and mirrors to create the illusion that they have everything under control. The government's credit is shot, the retirement program is on a 1,000-day meltdown, and the same recycled politicians are beginning to jockey for position in the next elections so they can have their shot at maintaining the status quo. So don't count on the U.S. or CNMI government to pull us out of this financial quagmire.

The backbone of the economy is and always will be independently-operated businesses because they create jobs, bring in needed goods and services, serve tourists, pay taxes to keep the government afloat, and provide ongoing opportunities for economic advancement. We believe that the only viable, long-term solution to fix this ailing economy will come from dedicated entrepreneurs and workers who have a positive mindset about the future of the CNMI.

With all the talk about the doom and gloom we're facing, it can be difficult to have a rosy outlook for the future. However, if the people who own and operate local businesses lose hope or feel there is no future for their business on Saipan, it begins a self-perpetuating downward spiral that is difficult to change.

We want to be a positive force for change by providing some resources that will give business owners, managers, and other professionals hope that they will not only survive, but that their business can eventually prosper. For the past 11 years, we have written 383 articles in four different publications on Saipan alone. The number of words would fill about 1,000 pages if all our articles were printed in a book. Our topics have centered on how to improve your business operations, management, customer service, sales, and profits—with a few current issue articles thrown in occasionally. Our goal was, and still is, to provide timely and accurate information that can help you make better decisions and improve your business performance, productivity, and profits.

In writing these articles, we do a lot of research online and offline. We probably have the most comprehensive business library of books, and audio and videotapes on island. We talk to experts in their field to get their input, and continue to spend thousands of dollars for online training programs to help us stay up to date on the latest business developments.

Why we're mentioning this is because we need a favor from you. Even with a lot of resources at our disposal, we can't accomplish our goal to write more incisive articles on topics that are most im-

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.



Send us at least two questions that you would like to ask us, or topics that you would like to see addressed by contacting us at biz_results@yahoo.com.

portant to you, without your assistance. We'd like you to share your two biggest concerns as a business owner or manager. If you could have a private conversation with us, what two questions would you like to ask us?

We want to take your input so we can develop an outline of topics that would be most important for you at this time. It is our sincere desire to make a contribution to your business through a series of articles that are aimed to make improvements in your business, which will then help stimulate and improve the overall economy.

Businesspeople have told us that they make copies of certain articles and give it to their staff, or they use them in their regular meetings to discuss a specific topic. The articles can be used as a point of discussion to trigger ideas that could be developed to improve productivity, services, or methods of operating the business. New products or distribution channels might be explored, or additional sources of revenue might be developed. Simple changes or improvements could make marginal gains that accumulate to give your business a boost in sales and repeat business.

It doesn't take a breakthrough idea or thousands of dollars to See WHAT'S on Next Page The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Managing and formulating the budget

I have found the budget process to be the most demanding and complex responsibility of a legislator.

I gratefully give credit to the National Conference of State Legislators for much of what I have learned about managing and formulating a fiscal budget. I hope this explanation will help those who are interested to understand the budget process and the work involved. It is very important that the government operate under the guidance of a specific budget. Continuing resolutions just do not have the structure and controls necessary

s Chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee,

Budgets are documents that give the three branches of government and other government entities and corporations the power to spend. In the FY2009 budget proposal, government corporations, for the first time, are not exempt from the austerity measures that must take place.

to effectively manage resources.

Budgets summarize policy makers' evaluations of past programs and public agencies. They forecast future needs and resources. They set goals, and create the means for controlling and accounting for expenditures. They can create pressures for tax increases, or tax cuts, and they can push reforms or discourage them.

Because a budget has so many functions, the process of formulating one is often conflict-ridden and unsatisfactory to those affected. There are many and sometimes contradictory financial pressures that must be considered and balanced. In spite of the efforts made to finalize and enact a budget it can still be flawed in its outcomes.

The Executive Branch provides the Legislature with details and figures that are often lacking in documentation and clear explanations. It takes time to research, clarify, and ultimately understand the full scope of the governor's original proposal.

Department and agency heads come to the Legislature, the governor, and sometimes even the news media in search of fiscal support. It's their job to ask. It's the Legislature's job to sort through the proposals and establish priorities. Finding the balance between this and declining revenues can be difficult.

Legislators must keep in mind other issues as well. Is there enough money in the budget to pay for past and current programs that have been created? Who is responsible for not complying with the budget appropriations and who is accountable for debts incurred that were not budgeted? How do we pay for debts that were not anticipated in the budget? How does the proposed budget affect our constituents? Are taxes too high or too low for the services that the government provides? Is the deficit a message that we are not taxing enough to provide basic services? If there is a surplus, is it a signal that taxes can be lowered? How can the Legislature effectively influence budget and finance decisions?

The budget process also tends to increase rather than resolve partisan competition in the Legislature. This can cause budgets to be late or even never passed, unresolved problems, and inadequate spending controls. Usually budgets lack requirements for reviews of departmental outcomes or productivity, a valuable tool for future planning. As a result, the government cannot plan for the future or properly account for expenses, and because of the lack of controls on planned spending, deficits are incurred.

So what are the roles of the legislative and executive branches in developing a budget and how do the branches cooperate to resolve their differences?

The Planning and Budgeting Act provides that the governor submits to the Legislature a summary of the prior budget year's fiscal status (as of September 30) on Jan. 1 each year. On April 1st he must submit a budget proposal for the fiscal year starting Oct. 1. By July 1, the Legislature should pass a concurrent resolution that lists the total estimated income and establishes the spending limit. Any change to these amounts requires an amendment to the resolution.

The governor then has until Aug. 1 to submit any amendments or changes to the budget. By Sept. 1, the Legislature must transmit a final budget to the governor. This bill, or bills, contain the expenditure authorizations for the year starting Oct. 1 and cannot appropriate funds in excess of the total of the House Concurrent Resolution. It is important to understand that the Executive Branch must introduce the budget documents in advance of any action by the Legislature. The Legislature then has the vested power of appropriating.

The governor can and does interact with the Legislature during their deliberations through consultation. He can also exercise full or line-item veto power after the budget is passed.

During the development of all legislation but particularly during

the annual budget process a partnership exists between the Legislative and Executive branches. As with any relationship there is cooperation as well as conflict. Acknowledgement of that partnership is better when it comes sooner rather than later. Cooperation between the two branches is necessary in order for a budget to become law.

Consideration of the FY2009 budget did not precisely follow the described timeline. The governor transmitted his budget proposal to the Legislature shortly after the April 1 due date, and the House transmitted the appropriations bill to the Senate on October 2nd the day after the start of FY2009.

The FY2009 budget process was difficult. This was no surprise in a time of declining revenues. The issues about where to cut and who would make the decisions were caught between the governor and the Legislature. The Legislature was unwilling to accept the governor's proposal of reinstating austerity holidays and Fridays, but they also understood that basic operational costs would be cut more than \$6 million if austerity measures were simply deleted.

Multiple options were explored. Departments and agencies were contacted for additional information. Some responded and some did not. In the time frame that was available, it was not possible to follow up on every unanswered inquiry and in those cases we had to use the information from February to make decisions about the situation in October. We knew that cuts had to be made and that it was going to be painful for all concerned. What we first tried to do was to ease the pain by searching for every instance in which funding was proposed for non-existent costs. We found some, approximately \$3.75 million. That is not a lot in the scope of a \$156 million budget, but it helped.

Making decisions about appropriations requires a basic understanding of the needs and functioning of each agency. Sometimes, the information documenting budgetary requests that an agency provides to the governor is not shared with the Legislature. This can be part of the conflict between the executive branch's right to develop a budget and the Legislature's need to have as much information as possible to make informed decisions.

The executive branch ultimately has only one decision maker. When the governor, through his representative from the Office of Management and Budget, is satisfied with the budget proposal, it is transmitted to the Legislature. In the legislature, there are 29 decision makers. The final decisions are determined by the majority of votes in the two bouses.

Legislative members must determine what the majority opinions are, seek the middle ground and build from there to finalize a budget that will pass both houses. Actively seeking participation by as many members as possible empowers a significant portion of legislative members to take a stake in the budget process. Gaining an understanding of how one's mission is affected by the budget process makes a more effective legislator.

After the first version of the appropriations bill was transmitted from the House to the Senate, there was a whirlwind of activity in which the Senate responded with a substitute bill, and the House rejected it. At that point a Joint Conference Committee was formed comprised of members from both the House and the Senate to hammer out the differences between the two bills and formulate a compromise that would pass both houses. The first compromise bill offered by the Joint Conference Committee was not accepted, and it was returned to the Committee for reconsideration. There were many conversations between members, both in and outside the Joint Conference Committee. The second version was ultimately presented to the House, and in back to back sessions, both houses passed it. These activities normally occur during July and August, and we look forward to negotiating the FY2010 budget during these months in 2009. The bill is now under consideration by the governor.

We are all hoping that if the governor has legitimate legal concerns about certain provisions in the bill, he will consider only using his line-item veto power, leave major provisions intact, and sign the FY2009 budget into law. This FY 2009 budget is the beginning of looking at total expenditures for the budget year and seeing the major expenditure areas. As with any budget, it is not perfect, but at minimum it establishes order and control to the use of public funds during FY2009.

There are three budgets in process all the time. There is the budget for the last fiscal year that is past, next is the budget under which we are currently operating, and finally there is the budget that is being considered and negotiated for the coming fiscal year.

The first supplies audited financial reports that establish base lines

By MARIA FRICA T. PANGELINAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Maria Frica T. Pangelinan is a senator in the 16th Northern Marianas Legislature and is chairwoman of the Senate Fiscal Affairs Com-



Legislative members must determine what the majority opinions are, seek the middle ground and build from there to finalize a budget that will pass both houses.

of actual revenues and expenditures that must be taken into account. The second makes available partial information for the current year. From the information these two provide, a framework is established that the governor and the Legislature work with to formulate the upcoming budget.

It has been suggested that performance based budgeting would be the best technique for our government. We use the traditional budget process that considers the budget at an individual business unit level. This approach tends to take existing policies and programs for granted, and can also discourage rigorous or fundamental review of priorities, program effectiveness, or service outcomes.

Traditional budgeting makes us look at past expenditures and at department budgets. We assess the programs that exist, by which statutory authority each agency operates, and then determine whether the Legislature wants to continue those programs in the same manner as in prior years. We can use traditional budgeting to greater advantage if we temper it with performance analyses on some agencies each year. In any event, adhering to a particular budget process will not end revenue shortfalls, ensure balanced budgets, or settle differences over policy.

Regardless of which process we use, ultimately each member has to decide how much to tax, how much to spend and where to spend it. We still, in the end, must answer some fundamental questions. What goals are set? What happens if those goals are not met? What sanctions is the Legislature willing to impose? Do we close a department or end a program? What incentives or penalties could be used that match the outcome of performance reviews?

Each year, our resources are finite and the demand for them is nearly infinite. We will never be able to spend enough to satisfy all agency requests. The entire budget process is one of prioritizing, choosing among alternatives, and being able to do so using facts and diplomacy. I want to express my appreciation for the support of the Senate President and my colleagues in the Senate, the Speaker of the House, the House Membership, the Chair and Acting Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee during this year's budget negotiations. Without their active participation, presenting a budget to the governor would have been even more difficult than it was in these financially challenging times.

The Conference Committee worked well in understanding the overall budget picture. Building interpersonal relationships was the key. We hope to continue to work with our colleagues at the Legislature, the Executive Branch, and staff with respect and patience.

The Legislature has no greater purpose than a considered and balanced budget. To this end, full and accurate reporting of all revenues and expenses is an essential element. The long-term benefit of public trust outweighs any costs of time or resources expended to meet this obligation.

WHAT'S

From Page 10

discount the ideas that can come from the lowest paid individuals in an organization. They are often the ones on the frontline that hear the complaints or experience the frustrations of your customers.

Send us at least two questions that you would like to ask us, or topics that you would like to see addressed by contacting us

at biz_results@yahoo.com. We'll use your input to research and share the best ideas we can find on each topic. With enough good ideas that are implemented into your business, you will see changes and experience the hope it takes to lift your business and our ailing economy.

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam,

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.

▲88° ▼78°



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.

▼77° ▲88°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▼77°

▲87°

Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Rain	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 90 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Majuro	Showers	▲ 83 ▼75

Around The Globe

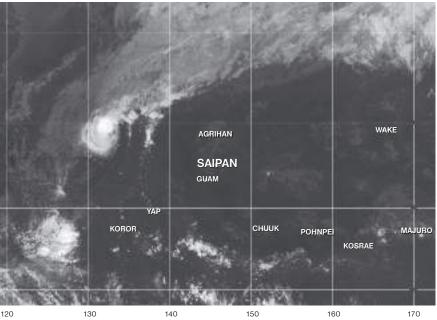
Los Angeles Mostly Sunny ▲ 58 ▼ 44 Manila Showers ▲ 90 ▼ 72 Melbourne Thunderstorms ▲ 68 ▼ 48 Miami Sunny ▲ 78 ▼ 68				
Hong Kong Mostly Sunny ↑72 ▼57 Honolulu Mostly Cloudy ↑79 ▼71 London Cloudy ↑50 ▼43 Los Angeles Mostly Sunny ↑58 ▼44 Manila Showers ↑90 ▼72 Melbourne Thunderstorms ↑68 ▼48 Miami Sunny ↑78 ▼68 New York Cloudy ↑41 ▼34 Osaka Showers ↑52 ▼35 Paris Mostly Cloudy ↑45 ▼40 Pusan Sunny ↑48 ▼28 Rome Rain ↑54 ▼38 Salem Cold ↑33 ▼30 San Francisco Showers ↑54 ▼44 Seoul Sunny ↑34 ▼23	Auckland	Partly Sunny	▲ 70	▼ 61
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Seoul Sunny ▲34 ▼23	Salem	Cold	▲ 33	▼30
	San Francisco	Showers	▲ 54	₹44
Tokyo Partly Sunny ▲55 ▼34	Seoul	Sunny	▲ 34	₹23
	Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 55	▼ 34

Tides Saipan Harbor I ow Tide: 5:50AM Today 0.2 Feet 12:57PM Today High Tide: 2.0 Feet 7:07PM Today Low Tide: 1.0 Feet 11:44PM Today High Tide: 1.5 Feet

▲46 ▼34

Washington, DC Cloudy

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17, 2008

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Typhoon Dolphin (27W) is centered near 19N132E or 800 miles north of Koror, Palau. It is moving north-northeastward at 9 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are occurring within 120 miles of the typhoon center. For more detailed information, see NWS advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ31 PGUM and JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN31 PGTW. A cold front stretches southwestward from 25N155E to 24N150E then continues as a stationary front to end near 20N133E. Extensive cloudiness. Patchy rain and a few thunderstorms are present along this boundary and northwestward to beyond 25N. Scattered showers are found within 100 miles of a line from 7N165E to 8N180. This area includes Kwajalein and Majuro.

Sunrise/Sunset Today 6:37AM 5:50 PM 6:37AM 5:51 PM Friday Saturday 6:38AM 5:51 PM Sunday 6:38AM 5:52 PM 6:39AM 5:52 PM Monday

MICO	ili ise/ Mooi	1361
Today	11:30PM	11:15 AM
Friday		11:53 AM
Saturday	12:21AM	12:30 PM
Sunday	1:11AM	1:07 PM
Monday	2:01AM	1:46 PM

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PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
- A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, grantof awards, team-building exercise other activities by members of the business community. ■ SAMU'T SARI
- Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRÁVELOGUE
- Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration

NMI CRIME

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted

■ *11 on any PTI cellular phone

www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Log on to the internet at

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ COMMUNITY BRIEFS

through the following:

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

■ Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number ■ Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contri

6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 19, 2008

DEPARTURES Saipan-Rota

CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1.7

Saipan-Guam

CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

10:20pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

CO9599 9:30pm

NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:25am 1:30pm 2.3.4.5.6.7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:25am 11:05am Daily

Saipan-Incheon

OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:40am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily

Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Saipan-Shanghai FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2,6

Rota-Guam

CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7

Guam-Manila

5:50pm 9:10pm 3.5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:50am 1,2,4,6,7

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am 5.6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am 1,2,3,4,7 CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5,6 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily Daily CO9600 10:20am 11:10am CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

Narita-Saipan

NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 2,3,4,5,6,7 NW 100 8:45pm 1:15am+1 Daily

Osaka-Saipan

NW 084 10:40am 3:10pm Daily

Nagoya-Saipan

NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily

Incheon-Saipan

OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1.2.3.4.5.6

Busan-Saipan

OZ 607 9:30pm 2:40am+1 3,4,6,7

Shanghai-Saipan

FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+1 1,5

CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6

Guam-Rota

Manila-Guam

CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3.5 via Koror CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily

10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine

PR 110

Airlines: NW: Northwest: OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency	Airline	ETD I	ETA Frequ	iency
Guam-	Rota			FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Dai
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily	FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Dai
Rota-S	aipan			FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Dai
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily	FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Dai
Saipan	-Rota			FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Dai
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily	FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Dai
Rota-G	iuam			FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Dai
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily	Tinian-	Saipa	n w/	

connecting flights to Rota or Guam**

FRE 102 7:05am 7:15am Daily FRE 104 7:50am 8:00am Daily FRE 106* 8:20am 8:30am Daily FRE 108* Daily 9:00am 9:10am Daily FRE 110 10:00am 10:10am Daily FRE 112 11:05am 11:15am Daily FRE 114 12:00pm 12:10pm Daily FRE 116 1:30pm 1:40pm Daily FRE 118 2:50pm 3:00pm Daily FRE 120* 4:20pm 4:30pm Daily FRE 122* 5:00pm 5:10pm Daily

Daily

Daily

Rota-Guam FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm

Guam-Rota

Rota-Saipan

Saipan-Rota

FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm

FRE 300

FRE 400

Saipan-Tinian FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily

FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am

Daily 8:40am 8:50am Daily 9:10am 9:20am Daily FRE 124 10:45am 10:55am Daily FRE 126

4:00pm 4:30pm Daily

6:00pm 6:30pm

FRE 107 FRE 109* 6:05pm 6:15pm 6:20pm 6:30pm FRE 111*

Letters to the Editor

Above the law

Recently, Rep. Tina Sablan filed an Open Government Act request regarding the governor's lawsuit against federalization. What Rep. Sablan is attempting to discover is who actually pays for the \$50,000 a month attorney's fees needed for this lawsuit.

As the governor has stated, he will not use public funds. So exactly where are these funds originating, if not from the public coffers? Like Rep. Sablan, many of us would like to see an accounting of these funds. Are public funds actually being used? Is there funding from outside which may involve a conflict of interest? Who is hiding what? And why?

To make matters more confusing, acting Attorney General Gregory Baka has attempted to block any accounting of these funds by stating: If the [feds] know how much money we have and what percentage we use, then the feds could bring a flurry of motions. Please Mr. Baka, correct me if I'm somehow wrong, but how much money we have is NADA!. We are BROKE. This has been stated by the CNMI Government a zillion times. As far as what percentage we use, it has also been stated a zillion times that we are paying \$50,000 a month for some Washington lawyers. What stuff are you hiding from the other side? Do you think any of this is a secret to the other side? Who are you kidding? This is such a flagrant example of stonewalling and political babble that I would be ashamed of myself were I to invoke such spurious logic. This is plain cover up.

Interestingly, on the same day, the governor's press secretary, Charles Reyes Jr., is quoted as saying, "We have always welcomed a frank discussion of economic concerns" and "The governor has always been willing to work closely with members of the Legislature on economic issues..." What reality are we discussing here? It

Act like a guest

Malou Berueco writes that respect is gained, not asked, in reference to Northern Marianas natives. It is morally unacceptable, she says, and then attacks the natives.

When you come to someone's homeland and leave your own by choice, you are automatically saying, "I am leaving what I have here and hope to make a better life in the new place. I accept the conditions of this new life." If you can't make this statement, then obviously you better keep looking for another place to live in if you want to leave your homeland.

Remember, you left wherever your homeland was because it was bad enough to want to leave! The respect of the homeland you enter is gained the moment you decide to come here. There seems to be a let's-attack-the-NM-natives bandwagon and you have jumped on it without a basic understanding of the preconditions of entering the CNMI. If someone forced you to come here, then that is a different matter, but you are a guest. Start acting like one.

William "Bamboo" McCue

Wellington, Florida

Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union

PO Box 500135, Saipan MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez through the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union Board of Directors (BOARD) hereby gives notice that the BOARD has scheduled a meeting for Tuesday, December 23, 2008, at 2:00 pm at the Credit Union Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. The following agenda will be discussed:

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes June 26, 2008

II. GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

- A. Collection Status
- B. Financial Report Monthly
- C. Operational Matters

III. OLD BUSINESS - NONE

- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. 2009 Budget
- V. MISCELLANEOUS
- VI. ADIOURNMENT
- /s/ Frances A. Castro Chairperson

would certainly appear that, if not an outright cover up, than someone is hiding something. Charlie, where is this frank discussion regarding the \$50,000 a month? Please tell Mr. Baka to stop stonewalling, that is, if we are actually considering a frank discussion of economic issues. I wonder if you guys really believe any of this rhetoric you're telling the public?

A legal request for public information has been made by a

duly elected member of the House. It will be interesting to follow this and see if the requested material is handed over to Rep. Sablan...or are there persons in government who consider themselves above the law?

Bill Weiss

Puerto Rico, Saipan

Accreditation for NMC 's nursing program

Currently, the U.S. military is experiencing its largest demand for nurses since World War II. The Army for instance, is such dire need of nurses that they are now recruiting nurses with Associate Degrees into the Army Reserve and offering to finance their obtainment of a BA. As a matter of fact, last week the Department of Defense announced plans, for the first time in the history of the U.S. Armed Forces, to recruit foreign nurses. This will mean that for the first time in the nation's history, some commissioned U.S. military officers will be non-U.S. citizens.

What a shame, however, that, in the midst of all this (according to Mr. John G. Sanchez, of the U.S. Army Recruiting Command), the U.S. Army can still not accept graduates of the nursing program at Northern Marianas College, because our School of Nursing is still

not accredited by the National League for Nursing.

My question is: Why not? I give up. How difficult would it be to get an accreditation visit by the NLN? What would it cost? A whole \$7,000 for transportation, and room and board, for a few days?

By the way, I might mention that this lack of accreditation also precludes NMC graduates from applying for most other U.S. Government Nursing agencies (U.S. Public Health, Veterans Administration, etc), all of which are experiencing a shortage of qualified RNs and LVNs.

Ron Mandell

Gualo Rai, Saipan



14 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Business

SEC chair says agency failed to probe Madoff

WASHINGTON (AP)—Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Christopher Cox said Tuesday his agency repeatedly failed for at least a decade to pursue allegations of wrongdoing by Wall Street figure Bernard L. Madoff, the alleged perpetrator of a \$50 billion Ponzi scheme.

Cox ordered a probe by the SEC's inspector general, saying the agency's staff had never brought the Madoff matter to the attention of commissioners.

Since the SEC staff never recommended that the commission open a formal investigation, subpoena power was not used to obtain information and the staff relied on information voluntarily produced by Madoff and his firm.

"I am gravely concerned by the apparent multiple failures over at least a decade to thoroughly investigate these allegations or at any point to seek formal authority to pursue them," Cox said in a statement.

In a forceful condemnation of the SEC staff, Cox said there had been credible and specific allegations regarding Madoff's financial wrongdoing going back to at least 1999.

The SEC chairman's criticism of his own agency marks only the latest instance in which federal regulators have overlooked clear warning signs of possible fraud.

Its oversight of the Wall Street investment houses drew significant criticism. A review by the SEC inspector general determined that the agency's monitoring of the five biggest Wall Street firms, which included Bear Stearns, was lacking.

Cox's statement on Madoff was a stunning declaration in a scandal that has produced a series of dramatic developments.

Shock waves from the Madoff affair have radiated around the globe as the number of prestigious charitable foundations, big international banks and individual investors said to have fallen vic-

tim to an unprecedented fraud has grown. U.S. investigators are laboring to deconstruct the scheme.

The SEC chairman alleged that Madoff kept several sets of books and false documents, and provided false information involving his advisory activities to investors and to regulators.

Cox also ordered the removal from the ongoing investigation of any SEC staff members who have had contact with Madoff or his family.

Madoff remains free on \$10 million bail.

Since his arrest on Thursday, the SEC has been under increasing pressure to explain why it didn't uncover the prominent Wall Street figure's criminal activity years ago.

Hours before Cox denounced his own staff, a former SEC chief accountant, Lynn Turner, said that "I can't comprehend how a well-run investigation would have missed a fraud of this magnitude."

Stocks surge after Fed cuts rates to record lows

NEW YORK (AP)—A surprised Wall Street bolted higher Tuesday after the Federal Reserve's historic decision to further slash interest rates and provide broad support to revive the troubled economy. The Dow Jones industrials surged 360 points, or 4.2 percent, and broader indexes jumped more than 5 percent after the central bank said it will use "all available tools" to jump-start the economy. It also set its target for the rate at which banks lend to each other to a range of zero to 0.25 percent, the lowest level on record.

Demand for long-term government bonds increased and pushed yields to record lows.

The promise of further government action and a Swissarmy-knife approach for mending the economy damped concerns that policymakers were running low on tools to fan the economy by further lowering interest rates.

The idea that the Fed will likely proceed with plans to snap up government and mortgage debt made it easier for investors to place bets that the central bank will do what is necessary to help bring an end to the longest recession in a quarter-century.

"Today was a reminder that the Fed was on the case," said Jim McDonald, director of equity research at Northern Trust in Chicago. "It was a reaffirmation of their willingness to be very aggressive."

"What we heard today was

not revolutionarily different but it was a reminder that they are committed to using their balance sheet to the fullest extent to repair the financial markets and stimulate the economy."

The Fed's unprecedented move to lower its fed funds target rate to a range of zero to 0.25 percent rather than a fixed point was a surprise. The move is an acknowledgment that rates in the marketplace had been well below the Fed's 1 percent target, which it set at its previous meeting on Oct. 29. The central bank also cut the lending rate for loans directly to banks.

Many analysts had expected the Fed would cut its fed funds rate to 0.5 percent from 1 percent.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

White House pressed from right, left on car rescue

WASHINGTON (AP)—Conservative Republicans admonished the White House Tuesday not to use bank-bailout billions to rescue distressed U.S. automakers, and a key Democrat demanded the government get veto power over the companies' business decisions as a condition of any aid. The Bush administration said it was still evaluating options and suggested any deal would require major concessions by all sides. Complicating its task, lawmakers in both parties—having failed in their efforts to push a \$14 billion auto rescue through a bailout-weary Congress—were pressing for an array of terms and conditions they said should be part of any Plan B. "We are not going to be rushed into it," presidential press secretary Dana Perino declared.

Only a day earlier, President

George W. Bush suggested that a rescue package would come sooner rather than later. "An abrupt bankruptcy for autos could be devastating for the economy," Bush said on Monday. "This will not be a long process because of the economic fragility of the autos." Still, conservative Republican lawmakers, many from Southern states that are home to Japanese auto plants, wrote to Bush asking him not to use one of the most readily available pots of money—the \$700 billion Wall Street rescue fund—to help the U.S. carmakers.

Oil prices rise to above \$44 before **OPEC** meeting

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices rose above \$44 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as investors waited to see how big a production cut OPEC will announce at a meeting later today in Algeria. Light,

sweet crude for January delivery was up 82 cents to \$44.42 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract fell overnight 91 cents to settle at \$43.60 despite signs the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries planned to announce a significant reduction of output quotas. Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi said Tuesday that OPEC, which accounts for about 40 percent of global supply, would likely cut production by about 2 million barrels per day. The group announced cuts totaling 2 million barrels a day in September and October, moves that have so far failed to stem a 70 percent drop in crude prices since July. "You can't take that much oil out of the market and not impact it," said Gerard Rigby, energy analyst at Fuel First Consulting in Sydney. "If OPEC can keep its discipline, you'd expect these cuts to tighten the market."

Nation

Fla. police close books on '81 Walsh killing

HOLLYWOOD, Fla. (AP)—A serial killer who died more than a decade ago is the person who decapitated the 6-year-old son of "America's Most Wanted" host John Walsh in 1981, police in Florida said Tuesday. The announcement brought to a close a case that has vexed the Walsh family for more than two decades, launched the television show about the nation's most notorious criminals and inspired changes in how authorities search for missing children.

"Who could take a 6-yearold and murder and decapitate him? Who?" an emotional note any DNA proof of the John Walsh said at Tuesday's news conference. "We needed to know. We needed to know. And today we know. The not knowing has been a torture, but that journey's over."

Walsh's wife, Reve, at one point placed a small photo of their son on the podium.

Police named Ottis Toole, saying he was long the prime suspect in the case and that they had conclusively linked him to the killing. They declined to be specific about their evidence and did not

crime, but said an extensive review of the case file pointed only to Toole, as John Walsh long contended.

"Our agency has devoted an inordinate amount of time seeking leads to other potential perpetrators rather than emphasizing Ottis Toole as our primary suspect," said Hollywood Police Chief Chadwick Wagner, who launched a fresh review of the case after taking over the department last year. "Ottis Toole has continued to be our only real suspect."



John Walsh hugs his wife, Reve, after a news conference in Hollywood, Fla. Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008 where the Hollywood, Fla. police announced a conclusion to the investigation into the death of his son, Adam.

Source: Ill. gov nixed job for Jackson Jr.'s wife

CHICAGO (AP)—Shortly after his 2002 election, Gov. Rod Blagojevich told Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr. he didn't appoint the congressman's wife as lottery director because he had refused him a \$25,000 campaign donation, a person familiar with the conversation told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "Blagojevich went out of his way to say, 'You know I was considering your wife for the lottery job and the \$25,000 you didn't give me? That's why she's not getting the job," the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity because of the picked the congressman. ongoing federal investigation.

Jackson's name has played prominently ever Blagojevich was arrested last week on corruption charges, including allegations that he tried to sell or trade President-elect Barack Obama's vacant Senate seat for personal gain.

Jackson has been identified as one of the candidates Blagojevich was considering for the seat, and a criminal complaint said his supporters were willing to raise \$1.5 million for the governor if he

The complaint quotes Blagojevich as saying on federal wiretaps that an associate of the candidate offered to raise money for him if he made the Jackson appointment happen.

Jackson spokesman Kenneth Edmonds declined to comment on the account of the exchange shortly after Blagojevich's 2002 election but said the congressman, the son of civil rights activist Jesse Jackson, has approached federal investigators to discuss the governor and others for years.

No respite as wintry storms spread over nation

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)— Students went home for a snow day, stranded travelers waited at airports and drivers slid across icy roads in the second day of a bitter cold wave that blanketed

much of the nation Tuesday. There was little relief in sight. Temperatures were forecast to drop below zero Wednesday in at least 12 states in the Midwest and West. A band of snow and sleet fell Tuesday from Minnesota to New Hampshire.

Dozens of schools closed in Kentucky, Arkansas and Tennessee, and some school districts in Illinois sent students home early Tuesday. Up to a half-foot of snow had fallen in parts of Kentucky.

"It's pretty treacherous," said Jodi Shacklette, a Kentucky State Police dispatcher in Elizabethtown. "We're working wrecks just left and right."

More than 300 flights were canceled at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and about 50 were canceled at Midway Airport, said Department of Aviation spokesman Gregg Cunningham.

Police in northern Texas had to close some highway overpasses because they were so slippery with ice. In parts of Oklahoma, snow froze overnight and left a glaze of ice on roads, said John Pike, a weather service meteorologist.

Ski resorts near Flagstaff, Ariz., reported 8 to 12 inches of snow Tuesday and strong rain showers covered residents in Phoenix. Flash flood watches were issued for central Arizona through Wednesday night.

Cake request for 3-year-old Hitler namesake denied

EASTON, Pa. (AP)—The father of 3-year-old Adolf Hitler Campbell, denied a birthday cake with the child's full name on it by one New Jersey supermarket, is asking for a little tolerance. Heath Campbell and his wife, Deborah, are upset not only with the decision made by the Greenwich ShopRite, but with an outpouring of angry Internet postings in response to a local newspaper article over the weekend on their flare-up over frosting.

"I think people need to take their heads out of the cloud they've been in and start focusing on the future and not on the past," Heath Campbell said Tuesday in an interview conducted in Easton, on the other side of the Delaware River from where the family lives in Hunterdon County, N.J.

"There's a new president and he says it's time for a change; well, then it's time for a change," the 35-year-old continued. "They need to accept a name. A name's a name. The kid isn't going to grow up and do what (Hitler) did."

Deborah Campbell, 25, said she phoned in her order last week to the ShopRite. When she told the bakery department she wanted her son's name spelled out, she

ACROSS THE NATION

was listed in good condition.

Suspected bank robber

killed in Dallas; guard hurt

DALLAS (AP)—A robbery suspect was killed inside a bank after

he wounded an armed security guard, police said. The man entered

a branch of Chase Bank in south Dallas on Tuesday afternoon. He

shot at the security guard, who was grazed in the upper body, po-

lice said. The guard told officers he had exchanged gunfire with the

gunman but wasn't sure if he had hit the man. Several customers

and employees had fled the bank by the time officers arrived, and

more fled as police tactical units prepared to enter the building. Of-

ficers found the body of the suspect after entering the building. His

identity has not been confirmed. Dallas police Chief David Kunkle

said authorities are still interviewing witnesses. The security guard

Judge sequesters NJ jury in Fort Dix plot trial

CAMDEN, N.J. (AP)—A judge ordered a jury sequestered Tues-

day as they begin deliberations in the case of five men accused of

plotting an attack on the Army's Fort Dix. Jurors told Judge Robert

Kugler that they wanted to wait until Wednesday to begin delib-

erations in the case, which mostly focused on hundreds of secret

recordings and the credibility of the informants who made them.

Lawyers completed closing arguments in U.S. District Court on

Tuesday evening. The five defendants—all foreign-born Muslims

who lived for years in the Philadelphia suburb of Cherry Hill—are

charged with conspiring to kill military personnel and attempted

murder. Four of them also face weapons charges. They face life in

prison if convicted. There was no attack before the men were arrest-

ed in May 2007. In his final remarks to the jury Tuesday, Deputy

U.S. Attorney William Fitzpatrick portrayed the case as an example

of law enforcement officials averting a potentially deadly attack.



Heath Campbell, left, with his wife Deborah and son Adolf Hitler, 3, pose in Easton, Pa.,, Tuesday, Dec.

was told to talk to a supervisor, who denied the request.

Karen Meleta, a spokeswoman for ShopRite, said the Campbells had similar requests denied at the same store the last two years and said Heath Campbell previously had asked for a swastika to be included in the decoration.

"We reserve the right not to print anything on the cake that we deem to be inappropriate," Meleta said. "We considered this inappropriate."

The Campbells ultimately got their cake decorated at a Wal-Mart in Pennsylvania, Deborah Campbell said. About 12 people attended the birthday party on Sunday, including several children who were of mixed race, according to Heath Campbell.

"If we're so racist, then why would I have them come into my home?" he asked.

The Campbells' other two children also have unusual names: JoyceLynn Aryan Nation Campbell turns 2 in a few months and Honszlynn Hinler Jeannie Campbell will be 1 in April.

Heath Campbell said he named his son after Adolf Hitler because he liked the name and because "no one else in the world would have that name." He sounded surprised by all the controversy the dispute had generated.

Kennedy mystique flummoxes New York rivals for Senate

NEW YORK (AP)—Caroline Kennedy has avoided politics most of her life. She has yet to utter a word publicly about her interest in running for Hillary Rodham Clinton's Senate seat.

But in a sign of the enduring power of the Kennedy mystique, even her secondhand statements of interest have spooked the rest of the crowded field.

Before she edged into the picture, Democratic Gov. David Paterson had been considering about a dozen other potential contenders, most prominent among them Kennedy's former relative by marriage, Andrew Cuomo.

Cuomo, the son of Democratic Party icon and former New York Gov. Mario Cuomo, is the

state's attorney general. Others who were said to be interested include Nassau County executive Tom Suozzi and Reps. Kirsten Gillibrand, Carolyn Maloney and Brian Higgins.

Then came Kennedy. Suddenly, the others seemed to shrink in stature.

"What are we, chopped liver?" asked Rep. Jose Serrano, a Bronx congressman who is not vying for the seat but is sympathetic to his fellow lawmakers who are being eclipsed by Kennedy.

"They think, 'My god, a Kennedy, how do I look like I'm not happy about a Kennedy?"" he said. "It's not logical, there's a lot of emotion in this, emotion about the good ol' days and the Kennedys and Camelot."

Nation's first face transplant done in Cleveland hospital

A woman so horribly disfigured pital plans a news conference she was willing to risk her life to do something about it has undergone the nation's first near-total face transplant, the Cleveland Clinic announced Tuesday.

Reconstructive surgeon Dr. Maria Siemionow and a team of other specialists replaced 80 percent of the woman's face with that of a female cadaver a couple of weeks ago in a bold and controversial operation certain to stoke the debate over the ethics of such surgery.

The patient's name and age were not released, and the hospital said her family wanted the reason for her transplant to remain confidential. The hos-

Wednesday and would not give details until then.

The transplant was the fourth worldwide; two have been done in France, and one was performed in China.

Details of the Cleveland surgery were not disclosed, but surgeons generally transplant skin, facial nerves and muscle, and often other deep tissue. That is done so that the new face will actually function and not just be a mask.

Surgeons not connected to the case reacted cautiously since little was known about the circumstances, but they generally praised the operation.

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Attorneys for Plaintiff Commo

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,) Civil) Action) No.) 03-0414C
VS.) NOTICE
JAMES A. FLEMING, CRISTANCIA M. FLEMING, ROSALIA A. FLEMING, ALFRED F. FLEMING, DEEPAK H. SADHWANI, Defendants.	AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to a auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA hereby give notice that all of the right, title and interest of the Defendants James A Fleming and Cristancia M. Fleming in the following described, real property situated in San Jose, Tinian, CNMI will be sold at an

Tinian, CNMI. Lot No. 003 T 23 (formerly Block 7 Lot 1) as shown on the Division of Land and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 T 00 dated July 20, 1970, and containing an area of 1,476 square more or less, and including all existing and property, including all improvements,

The auction sale will be open to th general public and will be held at CDA's Conference Room, Saipan, at **2:00 p.m., on** Friday, December 19, 2008, subject to the 1. Minimum Bid. No minimum opening

2. Reserve. The auction shall be held with

3. Rights and Duties of Auctionee applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the

> a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted;

b.) To adjourn the sale without notice a any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, an and all bids.

4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in dvance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding except that the highest of such bids wil utomatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar C. Camacho Acting Chief Executive Officer, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455 Fax: 234-7256.

5. Deposit: Payment. A deposit of ter percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The emaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in orfeiture by the buyer of the ten percen (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the entioned property will revert to CDA.

6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms o conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by

7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of James A. Fleming and Cristancia M. Fleming in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment of rescission by any buyer.

Dated this _____ day of November 2008

SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, COMMISSIONER Department of Public Safety

VICENTE T. SALAS Law Office of Vicente T. Salas 2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsigno San Jose Village P.O. Box 501309 Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427 Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC 2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsigno San Jose Village P.O. Box 501127 Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427 Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Comm

COMMONWEALTH

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, Plaintiff,	Action No. 97-341
vs.	NOTICE
MANUEL A. TENORIO, The ESTATE OF MARTINA C. TENORIO, ROSALIA T. SABLAN, JOAQUIN A. TENORIO, JOSE A. TENORIO, and PEDRO A. TENORIO, Defendants. Defendants.	OF AUCTION

The Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the Defendants Manuel A. Tenorio and the Estate of Martina C. Tenorio in the following described rea roperty situated in San Vicente, Saipan, CNMI wil

Tract No. 22888-8, containing an area of 2,041 square meters, with the following coordinates: N 70° 43' 32" E. 63.50 meters to Corner 2: S 18° W, 27.43 SZ 2, 63.50 infectes to Coffner 3; N 749 37' 22" W, 27.43 meters to Corner 4; N 19° 53' 41" W, 36.00 meters to Corner 1; as shown in Drawing No. 2049/80, including all improvement

Lot 401 New-2-1, containing an area of 2,000 square meters, as more particularly described as beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1, having plane rectangular coordinates of 47,329.502 meters North and 50,833.089 meters east of the Mariana Islands District Coordinate System of 1966:

Thence S 53° 17' 16" E, 42.250 meters to corner 2; Thence S 47° 04' 21" E, 15.000 meters to corner 3; Thence S 31° 56' 58" W, 36.233 meters to corner 4; Thence N 51° 39' 38" W, 51,996 meters to corner 5;Thence N 23° 58' 28" E, 37.10 meters to corner 1, the point of beginning including all improvements, appurtenances and easements therewith, which property (i.e., Lot 40 New-2-1) was divided and partitioned out of Lot 401 New-2, and includes an easement of access and necessity, allowing ingress and egress to and from Lot 401 New-2-1, across Lot 401 New-2-R1; The auction sale will be open to the genera

public and will be held at CDA's Conference Roor Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on Friday, December 19, 2008, subject to the following announced terms

Minimum Bid. No minimum opening bid.
 Reserve. The auction shall be held with

 Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction:

a.)To withdraw the property listed for sale ir this announcement before sale or before a bio

for such property is accepted;
b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off without incurring any liability whatsoever

thereby; and c.)To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and al

bios.

4. <u>Bids.</u> Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be onsidered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone t Oscar C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith, P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.

5. Deposit: Payment, A deposit of ten percent 10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.

6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA

reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive

 Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact CDA for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Manuel A. Tenorio and the Estate of Martina C. Tenorio in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty, and subject to the redemption laws of the CNMI. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim adjustment or rescission by any buyer. Dated this 21st day of Novemb

SANTIAGO F. TUDELA, COMMISSIONER Department of Public Safety

Protected habitat proposed for sea otter in Alaska

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—A federal agency proposed nearly 6,000 square miles of southwest Alaska shoreline be protected habitat for a threatened population of northern sea otters. About 90 percent of northern sea otters live in coastal Alaska, and the Aleutian Islands population was declared threatened three years ago under the Endangered Species Act. About 40,000 northern sea otters exist today, less than half 1970s estimates. The reasons for the decline aren't known, but increasing predation by killer whales is suspected. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal issued Tuesday would designate nearshore waters in southwest Alaska as critical habitat. Nearshore is defined as within 100 meters, or 328 feet, of the mean tide line. The agency said nearshore waters provide sea otters with cover and shelter from marine predators, particularly killer whales.

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Asia

New Thai PM to tackle economy



Thailand's new Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, right, receives a bouquet of flowers from a Muslim female supporter at the Democrat Party headquarters Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, in Bangkok, Thailand.

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)— Thailand's new prime minister promised Wednesday to put together a competent Cabinet to revive the country's economy battered by months of violent anti-government protests.

Abhisit Vejjajiva—the 44year-old, Oxford-educated opposition leader—was voted by Parliament to be the country's prime minister on Monday. He is the first leader of a civilian government led by an opponent of exiled Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who has loomed over Thai politics since he was ousted by a military coup in 2006.

"I will do my best to put the right man in the right job," Abhisit told reporters. "I will choose competent individuals to revive the country."

The U.K.-born prime minister faces the difficult task of unifying a country torn apart by months of violent anti-government protests culminating in a siege of Bangkok's two airports -demonstrations that battered the key tourism industry just as the global economy was slipping into crisis.

The economic slowdown

could push Thailand's economy into recession, some economists said. The previous government forecast a contraction of up to 1 percent in the first quarter of 2009 and zero growth in the second quarter.

Democrat Party Secretary-General Suthep Thuagsuban said the economic team is likely to be led by Abhisit who has a strong economic background.

"The new premier will be visiting leaders of the private sector today to discuss ways to boost investors' confidence and revive the economy," Suthep said.

RP rescue ship located after losing contact; cargo vessel sinks

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— The coast guard located one of its rescue vessels that lost radio contact in rough seas in the central Philippines on Wednesday while on its way to help survivors of a sunken cargo ship, officials said.

A helicopter and other rescue ships found the coast guard vessel 3504 with its engine broken several miles (kilometers) off Sibay island near the tourist resort of Boracay, said coast guard spokesman Lt. Gary Dale Gimotea.

Radio contact was lost but crew members used their cell phones to call in their coordinates, he said, adding the vessel will be towed to the nearest port.

They were responding to a distress call Tuesday by a cargo vessel loaded with cement that sank off Caluya island in nearby Antique province, killing one

crew member, Gimotea said. The remaining crew of 19 were rescued by a passing vessel and brought to Caluya, he said.

Rough waves were reported at the time of the sinking, he said.

Search operations meanwhile resumed for 26 passengers of a ferry that capsized in northeastern Cagayan province on Sunday, drowning at least 30 people.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Rebels claim to kill 130 Sri Lankan troops COLOMBO, Sri Lanka

(AP)—Sri Lankan rebels said Wednesday they had repelled a coordinated government offensive into rebel-held territory, killing 130 government soldiers and wounding hundreds of other troops. The government denied the claims. The fighting came as Sri Lankan forces pushed ahead with a monthslong offensive against the Tamil Tigers' northern stronghold in the face of punishing seasonal rains and stiff rebel resistance. The latest battles erupted Tuesday when government forces launched attacks on rebel positions in at least four sites in the Kilinochchi district and along the front lines in the Jaffna peninsula, the rebel-linked

Web site TamilNet reported, citing Tamil Tiger officials. The rebels said they forced the troops to retreat after nine hours of fighting, killing 130 soldiers and wounding more than 300 others. The rebels said they recovered the bodies of at least 10 soldiers in Kilinochchi and eight more in Jaffna, with many other bodies trapped in no man's land. The Tamil Tigers did not give details of their own casualties.

China to send pandas to Taiwan on Dec. 23

BEIJING (AP)—China said Wednesday a pair of long-promised giant pandas symbolizing "peace, unity and friendship" will be sent to Taiwan next week in the latest sign of warming ties between the two once-bitter rivals. Beijing first offered the pandas to Taiwan in 2005 hoping the cuddly animals would strengthen Taiwanese public support for reuniting with the mainland, but the island's former leaders rejected the offer as a propaganda ploy. Taiwan's current President Ma Ying-jeou, however, has tried to nurture closer ties with the mainland and accepted the pandas as a goodwill gesture. The 4-year-old pandas will leave for Taiwan on Dec. 23 from an airport in Chengdu, in southwestern Sichuan province, said Li Weiyi, spokesman for the Cabinet-level Taiwan Affairs Office, at a regular news briefing. The pair are named "Tuan Tuan" and "Yuan Yuan," which when linked mean "reunion" in Chinese.

World

UN grants **OK** to land, air attacks on Somali pirates

On the same day Somali gunmen seized two more ships, the U.N. Security Council voted unanimously Tuesday to authorize nations to conduct land and air attacks on pirate bases on the coast of the Horn of Africa country.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was on hand to push through the resolution, one of President George W. Bush's last major foreign policy initiatives.

Rice said the resolution

will have a significant im- sailing between Asia and the pact, especially since "pirates are adapting to the naval presence in the Gulf of Aden by traveling further" into sea lanes not guarded by warships sent by the U.S. and other countries.

The council authorized nations to use "all necessary measures that are appropriate in Somalia" to stop anyone using Somali territory to plan or carry out piracy in the nearby waters traversed each year by thousands of cargo ships an end," he said.

Suez Canal.

That includes the use of Somali airspace, even though the U.S. appeased Indonesia, a council member, by removing direct mention of it, U.S. officials said.

Somalia Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Jama, whose government asked for the help, said he was "heartened" by the council action. "These acts of piracy are categorically unacceptable and should be put to

Shoe-thrower expected to appear before Iraqi judge

BAGHDAD (AP)—The Iraqi iournalist who hurled his shoes at President George W. Bush was expected to appear before a judge Wednesday in a first step of a complex legal process that could end in a criminal trial, a government official and the reporter's brother said.

Muntadhar al-Zeidi has been in custody since Sunday, when he gained folk hero status across the Arab world by throwing both shoes at Bush during a news conference. Bush ducked twice during the bizarre assault and was not injured.

Despite widespread sympathy for his act across the region, Iraqi authorities sent the case to the Central Criminal Court of Iraq, which handles security and terrorism cases.

An investigative judge will review the evidence and decide whether al-Zeidi should stand trial—a process that could take months. Iraq officials have recommended charging him with insulting a foreign leader, a charge which carries a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment or a small fine.

But investigative judges have sweeping powers under Iraqi law to amend and add charges—or even dismiss the case. If the judge finds enough evidence to warrant prosecution, a judicial panel will appoint three judges to hear the case and set a trial date

Shiite lawmaker Bahaa al-Araji said he expected al-Zeidi, who's in his late 20s, to be released on bail in the next few days while the investigative judge considers the case.

Al-Baghdadia television, his employer, said al-Zeidi would be represented by Dhiaa Saadi, head of the Iraqi lawyers' association.

WORLD BRIEFS

Doctor convicted in failed London, Glasgow attacks

LONDON (AP)—A British-

Iraqi doctor was convicted of conspiracy to murder Tuesday for failed car bomb attacks upon young nightclubbers and rescue workers in London and airport travelers in Scotland. Prosecutors said he plotted to kill hundreds in revenge for the deaths of loved ones in Iraq. Bilal Abdulla, 29, who is due to be sentenced Wednesday at London's Woolwich Crown Court, was also convicted of conspiring to cause explosions in central London and at Glasgow airport. His co-defendant. Jordanian neurologist Mohammed Asha, 28, was acquitted of playing any role in the plot. Abdulla represents an unlikely type of militant: a British-born doctor who had pledged an oath to protect human lives. Anti-terrorism officials said Abdulla's case challenged the British public to broaden their thinking about potential homegrown threats. "I personally find it bizarre that people who have trained as doctors can seek to take life in such a cruel way," said John McDowall, head of anti-terrorism policing in Britain. "When you look at the profile of these individuals, they are very different from

the terrorists we have dealt with in this country before—being professional people."

Greek youths take over TV, radio stations

ATHENS, Greece (AP)— Greek protesters pushed their way into television and radio studios Tuesday, forcing broadcasters to put out anti-government messages in a change of tactics after days of violent street protests. A group of about 10 youths got into the studio of NET state television and turned off a broadcast of a speech by Prime Minister Costas Karamanlis, station officials said. The orotesters forced studio cameras to instead show them holding up banners that read: "Stop watching, get out onto the streets," and "Free everyone who has been arrested." No one was hurt, and no arrests were reported. NET chairman Christos Panagopoulos said the protesters appeared to know how to operate cameras and studio controls. "This goes beyond any limit," he said. In the northern city of Thessaloniki, protesters made their way into three local radio stations, agreeing to leave only when a protest message was read out on the air. Violence also broke out again after a two-day lull as

masked youths attacked riot police headquarters in Athens and protesters clashed with police in Thessaloniki.

Russian warships causing no ripples in Pentagon

WASHINGTON (AP)—Russian warships have been plying the waters off Venezuela and Panama in recent weeks and are now heading for Cuba, but U.S. officials are not so much wringing their hands as yawning. Asked about a Russian warship transiting the Panama Canal earlier this month, Secretary of State Condoleezza Ricewho saw the ship while crossing the canal last week—told The Associated Press: "I guess they're on R&R. It's fine." The Pentagon, while puzzled by the Russians' actions, also is taking a ho-hum attitude. The U.S. military commander for the region, Adm. James Stavridis, head of the U.S. Southern Command, said that from his vantage point, there is no reason to be concerned about the Russian naval activity. "They pose no military threat to the U.S.," Stavridis said in an email to the AP on Tuesday. It was the first such passage by a Russian or Soviet warship since World War II.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 17

Environment

Wanted: Environmental fugitives

A new Web tool is available to enlist the public and other law enforcement agencies in tracking down fugitives accused of violating environmental laws and evading arrest.

"Putting this information on the EPA's Web site will increase the number of 'eyes' looking for environmental fugitives," said Granta Y. Nakayama, assistant administrator for EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Two EPA fugitives were captured this year, and this Web site could help us find more fugitives in the future."

The Web site includes photos of the accused, summaries of their alleged environmental violations, and information on each fugitive's last known whereabouts. The alleged violations include smuggling of ozone-depleting substances, illegally disposing of hazardous waste, discharging pollutants into the air and water, laundering money and making criminally false statements.

One of the 23 current fugitives is Mauro Valenzuela, 39, a former mechanic for Sabertech. Among his several charges, Valenzuela is alleged to have illegally transported hazardous materials on a commercial

ON THE NET

Information on EPA's Most Wanted Web site: http://www.epa.gov/fugitives

For more information on EPA's Criminal Enforcement program: http://www.epa.gov/compliance/criminal/index.html

aircraft. In 1996, Valenzuela allegedly transported waste oxygen generators onboard ValuJet flight 592 without proper markings and other safety measures. The jet crashed, killing all 110 passengers and crew onboard. Valenzuela failed to appear in federal court nine years ago.

The Web site also lists EPA's captured fugitives. Earlier this year, EPA found two men on the run. David Allen Phillips escaped prison four years ago after being convicted of Clean Water Act crimes in Montana. He fled to Mexico, was turned over to authorities by the Mexican government last March, and awaits further sentencing. David Ortiz fled after the appeal of his conviction for Clean Water Act crimes in 2004. He remained at large for almost four years until his capture last March in Colorado and is currently in prison.

Anyone who encounters a fugitive should notify EPA by submitting the "Report a Fugitive" form on the Web site. The information will be elec-

tronically sent to EPA's national criminal investigation office in Washington, D.C. The public may also choose to report the information to their local police or, if outside the United States, to the nearest U.S. Embassy. Some fugitives may be armed and dangerous, and EPA warns the public against trying to apprehend them.

Many of the alleged violators listed on the Web site have fled the country. EPA depends on cooperation with Interpol and other international law enforcement agencies to locate their whereabouts.

The FBI, U.S. Secret Service and the Bureau of Alcohol, To-bacco and Firearms also maintain web sites featuring fugitives from the law, but EPA is the first federal law enforcement agency to feature an environmental crimes fugitive web site.

Criminal charges are only allegations of misconduct. Individuals who have been charged with environmental crimes are presumed innocent. (EPA)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP 09-007

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for Cellular Services, Long Distance Services, TI Circuits to the Islands of Tinian and Rota, Off Island T1 Circuit (s), Basic Network Equipment Maintenance and PBX Equipment Maintenance.

Detailed information on the scope of work will be made available on or after December 18, 2008 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rdfloor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during regular PSS working hours. Proposals shall be submitted in a sealed envelope containing one (1) original signed proposal and three (3) copies face marked "PSS RFP 09-007." Responsibility determination documents shall be placed in a separate envelope face marked "RFP 09-007, CONFIDENTIAL - Responsibility Determination" containing one(1) original and three (3) copies. Responsibility documents will not be available for public viewing without the prior consent of the contractor.

All proposals shall be delivered to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than 4:00 p.m., January 19, 2009. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstance.

A pre-submission conference will be held on December 29, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the PSS Board of Education Conference Room located on the 2nd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building. All questions shall be delivered in writing to the PSS Procurement & Supply Officer, Attn: E-Rate (RFP 09-007) or sent via facsimile or e-mail no later than January 6, 2009 at 4:00p.m., local time. Please be advised of the following contact information: Facsimile: 670-664-3791; Email: babautajd@pss.cnmi.mp

PSS reserves the right to award a single or multiple awards, or award multiple parts of this RFP to a single contractor, or to reject any or all proposals or to cancel in whole or in part this solicitation if to do so is in the best interest of PSS.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D. Commissioner of Education

/S/ Juan D. Babauta Acting, P&S Officer



18 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Life & Style



NEW YORK (AP)—When the holidays draw near, the first songs Aretha Franklin starts playing from her yuletide collection are "This Christmas" and "Christmas Just Ain't Christmas (Without the One You Love)."

"Those are favorites in the Franklin households," the Queen of Soul says.

These days, she's putting her own stamp on her holiday favorites with the first Christmas CD of her legendary career, "This Christmas." Franklin says she would have put out one decades earlier, but the powers-that-be at her old labels weren't interested. Now that she's a free agent, she teamed with Borders Group to release the CD—which features her trademark soulful approach to traditional Christmas classics—exclusively at Borders and Waldenbooks stores and Borders' Web site.

AP: There are a lot of Christmas songs

to choose from—how did you determine which ones you would cover?

Franklin: I did "14 Angels," which is something I heard as a young girl, and I've always remembered it, and I've always loved it. I did "The Lord Will Make a Way," because Christmas is the birth of Jesus and it surrounds itself with the nativity and that scene so I thought "The Lord Will Make A Way" would be appropriate, and particularly

appropriate for the times. Times are really tough and really hard for a lot of people today.

AP: You have a very interesting, sassy take "'Twas The Night Before Christmas."

Franklin: (laughs) Oh, that was just for fun, it was just for fun, nothing else. Certainly not serious, just for fun. The producer, Tena Clark, just asked me was there a little something I could do. ... So I thought about it, penciled a little something in and we did that.

AP: This album is being sold exclusively through Borders. More music acts are doing these exclusive album deals these days with retailers. Why do you think this benefits the artist?

Franklin: Artists have become very independent, and they're doing their own thing. They're operating from the Internet—you can go platinum out of the studio. It leaves open so many more avenues to distribute your product and you can do it creatively and autonomously and do it the way you want it. It's not just one facet now the way it used to be in the record industry.

AP: A movie about your life is in the works. How is that progressing?

Franklin: I sat with the writers that came in for about three days just talking. They are just finishing a movie (about) Miles Davis, and I am waiting for a first draft. They didn't want to write it chronologically, and I kind of want to see it chronologically. They wanted to write it in retrospect, in a very unorthodox kind of way, and I don't know if that's the best way to go

about it. I think that people get a better grasp and a better sense of everything if we do it chronologically. ... But nothing is written in stone, I'm just waiting to read it to see what I think about it.

AP: What about the album you produced?

Franklin: That album is finished, it's ready, and I'm looking for a deal, a label distribution deal. The name of it is "Aretha: A Woman Falling Out of Love." Lot easier to fall in than out, but everything's cool now.

AP: Are you in love now?

Franklin: No, darling, I'm not in love no more, and that's when it's really good, when you don't want him no more. That's when it's the best.

AP: Is that something that you're still searching for?

Franklin: Actually no, I think I have it, I think I may have found it, and it was there all the time.

AP: Could you ever see yourself getting married again?

Franklin: I could very well do that. I like being married. I really like being married. I like getting up, and fixing the breakfast that he really likes the most, the lunch, the dinner, the whatever. I am very creative in that way, and like dealing with foods, when I don't have anything else to do. ... I kind of like taking care of my sweetie, and him taking care of me.

AP: How do you like to be taken care of?

Franklin: With tender loving care. Very thoughtfully and (with) a very sensitive man. And surprise me every now and then.

Lynne Cheney eyes writing James Madison biography

NEW YORK (AP)—After eight years in Washington, Lynne Cheney plans to write about a politician she regards as "steady," "reserved" and given to working "from behind the scenes."

No, it's not a memoir about her husband, Vice President Dick Cheney, but a biography of James Madison.

"I think of him as an intellectual and political genius," she says during a recent interview. "It's a rare combination."

Cheney's book, "Founding Genius: A Biography of James Madison," will be published in 2011. Madison is a favorite of Cheney's, dating back, she says, to her work in the 1980s on the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. Cheney sponsors an annual James Madison Book Award for historical writing for young people and has written several children's best-sellers about American history, including "A is for Abigail" and "When Washington Crossed the Delaware."

Led by David McCullough's "John Adams," all the major founders have been subjects of best-sellers over the past few years—except Madison, regarded as a brilliant thinker and tactician by historians, but also too dull and reclusive to inspire a compelling biography

"He has the style of an insurance policy writer," says Joseph Ellis, author of the million-selling "Founding Brothers" and of "His Excellency," a best-seller about George Washington. "The Madison papers have very few moments of eloquence."

But Cheney says she is drawn not only to Madison's mind, but to his life, to his marriage to the very lively Dolley Madison and to his leadership during the War of 1812, when the British burned the White House. The bond becomes more personal when Cheney travels to Virginia, driving along Dolley Madison Boulevard, "the route she took" when the first lady fled from the British.

James Madison is a favorite among the right, which cites him as an advocate of judicial restraint and limited government; A silhouette of Madison is even used as the logo of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal organization where members have included Supreme Court justices John Roberts and Antonin Scalia.

But Cheney said she was most inspired by Madison's belief in free expression. Barnett said that she was "going to write a great story about a fascinating historical figure who was the principle author of the Bill of Rights and a champion of intellectual freedom.

"It is not 'political' at all," Barnett said of the book.

Cheney usually is published by Simon & Schuster, but "Founding Genius" will be released by Viking, an imprint of Penguin Group (USA) where Cheney will work with editor Wendy Wolf, whose authors include Nathaniel Philbrick, Kevin Phillips and Steven Pinker. Cheney's literary representative, Washington attorney Robert Barnett, praised Wolf, but also said that the money was key.

"There was a great deal of interest in this book. Viking made the best offer, and Wendy Wolf is a terrific editor," says Barnett, whose clients include President-elect Barack Obama and former President Clinton.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 19



Baptismal Nino & Nina: † Juan B. Camacho/

† Maria S. Camacho (Pepero)

Lovingly Survived by

Wife : Rosalina Camacho Maratita Magofna (ocha/Rose)

Children & Grandchildren: Nemesio/Tania Magofna (Mitch Tevin), Ijulinda/Ryan Taisacan (Vincent Jessen, Charity, Ana), Ramona

Magofna/Special friend Leslie Ann Sablan (Andy, Riley, Jordan, Alyssa), Brigid Ann Magofna (Kiana

Brinel), Zeldaleen Magofna, Vicenta Rose Magofna, Amalia Magofna

Stepmother : Ana Ada Magofna

Reared Kids/Grandkids: Kuleta/Jose Taitano (Johannes, Coleen Jo, Joe Vincent Jr.), † Jeffrey Maratita/Julie Dela Rosa (David Peter,

Jerry Thomas, Thaddeus Paul, Tzarina Mae, Jiana Isa), Bertha/Jack Camacho (Jasmine, Joaquin Jr., Jaythan,

Jessah Rae)

Godparents : Jose DLG/Theresita B. Diaz

Godparents (Reared) : Takeo/Magdalena George

Brothers & Sisters : Rosario Diaz Magofna, Sinforosa Diaz Magofna, Estella/Antonio Cabrera, Diana/Jose Santos, Carmen Diaz

Magofna, Molly Ann/Manuel Duenas, Cecilia/Ramon Ngeskebei, James John/Velma Magofna

In-laws: Thomas C. Maratita, Lourdes M. Ayuyu, Virginia/Juan Manglona, Rufino C. Maratita/Claudia Masga

Robert/Catalina Maratita, Margarita Lizama Maratita

Dec. 15 to Dec. 17 : Mass offering at 6:00 p.m. followed by Holy Rosary at San Antonio Church.

Dec. 18 to Dec. 20 : Mass offering at 5:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at 7:00 p.m., at San Antonio Church.

Dec. 21 : Mass offering at 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. followed by Holy Rosary at San Antonio Church.

On Tuesday, December 23, 2008, his remains will be escorted from Borja's Funeral Home at 7:00 a.m. Viewing and last respect may be paid beginning at 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at San Antonio Church at 10:00 a.m. Interment service will follow immediately after the mass at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Finaton miyu yan tinayuyut miyu ma sen agradesi. Un dangkulu na si yu'us maase ginen I asaguania yan i famaguon na yan I familia.

20 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 & STYLE SAIPAN TRIBUNE LIFE

HBO, Winfrey's production company reaches deal



In this Dec. 3, 2008, file photo, Oprah Winfrey attends the Alvin Ailey

Mon thru Thurs

Drama, Thriller . Rated PG 13

Kristen Stewart, Robert Pattinson

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NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey is ending a long-term relationship with ABC by taking her production company to HBO for a three-year deal to make movies, documentaries and TV series.

Kate Forte, head of Harpo Films, said Tuesday that Winfrey's company wanted to make a more eclectic mix of programming than was available on broadcast TV, working with people who did not like the restrictions of commercial interruptions. She would not detail any of the future projects.

Winfrey has worked at ABC for 15 years, and her "Oprah Winfrey Presents" series has focused largely on movies positive or inspirational in tone. The most recent was an adaptation from a Mitch Albom book, "For One More Forte said. Day," about a drunk about to commit suicide who is saved by the ghost of his mother.

Winfrey's movie starring Halle Berry, "Their Eyes Were Watching God," was the mostwatched television movie in six years at the time of its 2005 airing on ABC.

ABC wanted to extend the deal, but Harpo Films believed HBO was a better fit,

"This is really a dream come true for us," she said.

The premium cable network doesn't usually make such individual deals with production companies, but network copresident Richard Plepler said that "Oprah personifies excellence and quality in everything she does."

Neither side would discuss financial terms of the deal. They Discovery Health network.

said some of the projects on which Harpo is working would become known very soon.

Winfrey has not discussed acting in any of the projects for HBO, the executives said.

The HBO deal has nothing to do with Winfrey's agreement with Discovery Communications for OWN—the Oprah Winfrey Network—that will debut next year, replacing the

Sci Fi charts its course for the future



LOS ANGELES TIMES

Sci Fi President Dave Howe says he thinks the channel's rise "has shocked people."

By GEOFF BOUCHER) 2008, LOS ANGELES TIMES

HOLLYWOOD—The end is in

sight for "Battlestar Galactica," and the beleaguered humans of the Twelve Colonies aren't the only ones fretting about their survival. The executives at Sci Fi, the cable channel that has ridden "Galactica" as its esteemed flagship, will now have to carry on without her.

The final 10 episodes of "Battlestar" begin Jan. 19, and although a prequel series called "Caprica" has been locked in for 2010, that show begins with a new cast, a new story and no guarantees. Dave Howe, president of the cable station, owned by NBC Universal, said there was anxiety about losing the award-winning drama that gave Sci Fi much of its identity.

"Believe me, none of us could ever overestimate the success of 'Battlestar' in terms of putting us on the map with not just a critical audience but actually with a new audience," Howe said. "I think all of us will be depressed when it's over."

On a recent visit to Los Angeles, Howe was plainly proud of the broader success of Sci Fi (formerly called the Sci Fi Channel), which for a considerable part of its 16-year his-

fanboy corner of the cable dial with reruns of "The Incredible Hulk" and "Planet of the Apes." Now the channel is in a different stratum.

"We're at No. 5 for the year," Howe said, "and within spitting distance of A&E at No. 4. which I think has shocked some people who have assumed that we're so niche and narrow that we don't even register on the Richter scale."

The question is how the channel will make the Earth move again. Howe pointed to the series "Sanctuary," which premiered Oct. 3 and saw its pilot finish as the night's No. 1 prime-time cable entertainment program among adults 25 to 54, as part of the answer.

The fantasy show—about mysterious 157-year-old researcher Helen Magnus (Amanda Tapping), who tends to a refuge for magical beasties—is a symbol of Sci Fi's eagerness to embrace new models.

"Sanctuary" began as an Internet series of Webisodes and is filmed on a virtual set of green-screen technology and CGI effects.

Howe and his team are pushing online as well and view the cable channel as just part of the hard-wiring needed to get

tory was known primarily as a today's sci-fi and fantasy fans. Sci Fi is working on a project for a 2010 premiere that Howe calls "the Holy Grail": The channel is teaming television writers with video-game designers to create a franchise that is both a television series and a massive multiplayer game on the Internet—the game players will help shape the show's story arc.

Sci Fi also is making a push into scripted reality shows, such as "Estate of Panic," on which contestants compete in a haunted house, and the delicately titled "Cash or Capture," on which "men in black" hunt players.

If anything, Sci Fi seems to be dealing with too many ideas, with a staggering number of development deals. That might be a bit of anxious hyperactivity by a channel losing its go-to franchise. Howe clearly hopes there's another "Galactica" in the stars.

"To take something that was a cheesy 1970s show and turn it into something like the 'West Wing' of outer space is not something that anybody set out to do," he said. "It brought in people who would have never touched us before. Now we have to build on that. That is our challenge."



Mon thru Thurs

Action, Animated . Rated PG

John Travolta, Miley Cyrus



LOS ANGELES (AP)— "Twilight" fans have a short wait for the next installment of the vampire saga.

Summit Entertainment spokesman Paul Pflug says "New Moon" is following just 12 months after the first movie, opening Nov. 20, 2009, over the same weekend as "Twilight" this year.

Summit has tapped Chris Weitz ("The Golden Compass") to direct "New Moon," based on the second book in Stephenie Meyer's best-selling series about the dangerous romance between a teen (Kristen Stewart) and a vampire (Robert Pattinson) fighting his bloodsucking instincts.

Weitz is taking over the franchise from "Twilight" director Catherine Hardwicke. "Twilight" has shot to \$150 million at the box office since debuting Nov. 21.

won four Emmys. He was also

nominated twice for Academy

Awards for movie roles in 1959

Los Angeles Superior Court

states Falk lives in Beverly Hills

with his wife and recently had

hip surgery and requires con-

The petition filed Friday in



Document: Actor Peter Falk has Alzheimer's

and 1960.

stant care.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A court document filed by Peter Falk's daughter says the Emmy-winning actor is suffering from Alzheimer's disease. Catherine Falk is seeking a court's approval for a conservatorship of her 81-year-old father, who she claims no longer recognizes people. A hearing has been scheduled for late January.

Falk is familiar to most audiences as the star of the television series "Columbo," for which he

In this Aug. 9, 2007 file photo, actor Peter Falk arrives for the

Hollywood Foreign Press Association's annual installation lun-

cheon at The Beverly Hills Hotel

A phone message left for Falk's manager was not immediately returned Tuesday.

Rapper Lil Wayne accused of copyright infringement

NEW ORLEANS (AP)-Lawyers for rapper Lil Wayne are seeking more time to turn over documents in response to a lawsuit that accuses the award-winning recording artist of copyright infringement.

A federal lawsuit filed in May claims Lil Wayne didn't have permission to sample a song by singer Karma-Ann Swanepoel.

The suit says Lil Wayne's record label, Cash Money Records, tried but failed to negotiate a license to use Swanepoel's song "Once" before millions of people downloaded the rapper's song "I Feel Like Dying.'

A court filing Tuesday by Lil Wayne's attorneys asks a judge in New Orleans to extend a Friday deadline for turning over documents requested by lawyers for the company that published Swanepoel's song.

Orchestrated greetings strike sour note with churchgoers

DEAR ABBY: I take exception to your reply to "Minister's Daughter, Cayucos, Calif." (Sept. 8), who objected to the greeting and handshaking moment during church service that is dictated by the minister.

I happen to agree wholeheartedly with "Daughter's" sentiments, as do many other members of my church. We feel that the moment is manipulated, interrupts the flow of the service and creates a false bon-



None of us is unfriendly, ungracious or reluctant to make others feel welcome in our church. But we would prefer to do it spontaneously—before or after the service—when we actually feel moved to make the gesture.

LYN IN CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA.

DEAR LYN: I understand your sentiments. That said, I stand by my answer. I told "Minister's Daughter" that I didn't think it was too much to ask to reach out for a moment to ensure that everyone felt included. However, I received a ton of mail on this subject and opinions were decidedly mixed.

DEAR ABBY: When I attended church with my husband and family, I never cared for the forced greeting custom. However, now that I am divorced and attend church alone, I realize that the human contact is priceless.

One Sunday, our minister said, "Turn to the people next to you and tell them they are beautiful." I turned, and the woman next to me said, "Hello. Has anyone told you that you are beautiful?" Even though it was a "forced" greeting, it touched my heart. Speaking as someone who lives alone and who never hears those words, it brightened my day. The greeting, like the church and life, is not about what you get, but about what you give to someone else.

GREETER WITH A NEW ATTITUDE

DEAR ABBY: We started this type of greeting years ago, and I also think more people don't like it. I hate it when people cover their face with their hand when they cough or sneeze and then offer a handshake. We all know that colds and flu are transmitted this way.

After hearing complaints, our pastor now asks that we offer a 'sign of peace." I much prefer this, and I offer a smile and say, "La paix du Seigneur" (God's peace be with you). However, I never refuse a handshake if one is offered.

ANDREE IN OTTAWA

DEAR ABBY: Before receiving disability insurance, I was a homeless man. Many times, the only thing that kept me from committing suicide was the opportunity to enter a local church for a few minutes of worship and the reminder that I was still part of the human race.

All too often, my appearance and status were enough to turn most people away. But those who truly walked in the love of God reached out to me with open arms and hearts. And they weren't afraid of catching some unknown disease that living on the streets might produce. In this fragmented society, even "lepers" need love.

ART IN ABILENE

DEAR ABBY: If the intent of this practice is to make newcomers feel like part of the group, then it is counterproductive. A better way would be for the pastor to encourage gregarious members of the congregation to greet new people after the service. If it is for those worshippers who are already well-acquainted to greet each other in a structured manner, then it is unnecessary.

WASHINGTON STATE BOOMER

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a businesssized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Will.i.am to perform on Dick Clark New Year's Eve

NEW YORK (AP)—2009 will mark the start of a new era, so it's fitting that will.i.am will celebrate it by singing "It's A New Day" on Dick Clark's New Year's Eve special.

The Black Eyed Peas frontman is set to perform the song on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve With Ryan Seacrest." Will.i.am has said the song was inspired by the victory of President Elect-Barack Obama.

He will join a star-studded lineup that includes the Jonas Brothers, Taylor Swift and Lionel Richie. While the latter three are performing from Times Square, will.i.am will join the Pussycat Dolls, Fall Out Boy and Ne-Yo in segments from Los Angeles.

In this Nov. 17, 2008 file photo, will.i.am of the Black Eyed Peas is photographed at AP's Camden

Ebert gets life membership from Directors Guild LOS ANGELES (AP)—Roger awards dinner.

Ebert is becoming an honorary life member of the Directors Guild of America.

announce-The ment Tuesday from the top union representing Hollywood filmmakers says Ebert is receiving the honor at the guild's Jan. 31



"From the blockbuster to the tiny independent film. Roger Ebert has devoted his career to sharing his love of film with generations of moviegoers," says guild President Michael Apted. "In doing so,

he's kept directors on their toes

for more than 40 years."

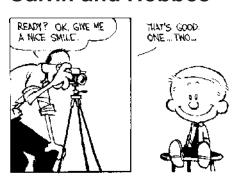
The Pulitzer Prize-winning critic for the Chicago Sun-Times has been host of TV's "At the Movies" with Chicago colleagues Gene Siskel and later Richard Roeper.

The 66-year-old Ebert has battled cancer and undergone surgery that has left him unable to speak but continues to write film reviews.

22 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

CLICK

.THREE!

MY HAIR'S GETTING

Garfield®

HERE'S SOMETHING

YOUR GIRLFRIEND MIGHT LIKE



WHAT A PRETTY NECKLACE



THEY BOUGHT IT WHERE'D YOU GET THE ICE CREAM? YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

By Jim Davis





CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer **ACROSS 35** Haw's DOWN 21 Sent partner 1 Spill the 1 United dupli beans 36 — willow nations cates of 5 Founda-37 Holly-2 Tibetan e-mail priest tion wood 8 Military audition 3 Tel painter 40 Small follower Gustav hat 12 Volcanic 4 Soft. 24 Dines 41 Fungal outflow sheer 13 Listening fabric growth 45 Anything device 5 Emerald. 26 "— Like **14** The but that for one 47 Little 6 Perfume voke's on them devil label 15 Leave out 49 Met 16 Actress melody 7 Clad 50 Not the Mc-8 Noted down Cleveland Clanahan who e in the 17 Ollie's amount QB mouth 51 Perched 33 North pal Bernie 18 Hole **52** — a soul 9 Radical 20 "The Lion 53 Banana degrees King" castoff **10** Pod 35 Part of 54 Take a occupant H.R.H. vi lain 22 Stendiling whack at 11 Hostel 36 Omega 55 Coloring 19 Dead process 38 Art 26 Struck agents heat 29 Started support Solution time: 25 mins. the trick 39 Void 30 Chinese 42 Wagon chairman 43 Green 31 Possess acres 32 Accom-45 Recipe plished 33 "West meas Side Story too 48 Scratch gang

23 Austrian 25 Inquisitive the Wind' 27 Not fem. 28 It follows 19-Down 32 He looks peninsula preceder 44 Methods 46 Weeding 34 Compass the Yeslerday's answer 12-18 dir. surface

For answers to today's crossword, call I**-900-226-595**5! 99¢ per minute, touch STUMPED? tone/retary phones. (18+ on y.) A King

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Aguilera, 28; Katie Holmes, 30; Brad Pitt, 45; Steven Spielberg, 62

Happy Birthday: Don't let emotional matters cloud your vision or hold you back. Look beyond what is happening in your personal life and consider the possibilities that will help lead you to a better place. This year, strive for perfection, innovation and good timing. A change of location, vocation or direction in life will do you good. Your numbers are 9, 12, 18, 22, 26, 30, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You'll be amazed how much you can accomplish if you put your mind to it. Don't leave anything undone and you will enjoy the upcoming festivities that much more. Once you have the tedious

work behind you, the rest will be easy. TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Get out and socialize at functions that combine business with pleasure and you will dazzle some of the most prestigious people. Set up meetings for the new year to get your foot in the door.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Offer your assistance or volunteer for a cause. Love is on the rise and making a leap toward a solid and secure relationship with someone you care about will be beneficial. Put yourself on the line. OO

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Do something nice for friends and relatives. Plan a festive event, sign up for a fundraiser or donate goods to community services for the needy. Relieve an older family member who could use a little help.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You cannot play when there is so much to finish. Concentrate on your finances, work and anything that may influence your future position. Be aggressive in pursuing your goals. Be prepared to make a quick decision.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let the past bring you down now. If there has been a problem between family

members, put it to rest now before it destroys the foundation of your roots. Put stubbornness aside and let the talks begin.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You must not allow a secret to be revealed, especially if someone is counting on you. Focus on your love life and pleasing someone special. That person should be happy just spending time with you. OOO

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Accomplish all you can before everyone breaks for the holidays. Don't be fooled by someone playing an emotional game to get you to do something that may not be in your best financial interest. Someone worthwhile will take an interest in a project you are promoting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Complaints are likely to head your way. Be prepared to do a little damage control.

Don't waste time trying to convince someone to join your pursuit or take an interest if he or she is being negative. Believe in what you are trying

to do. 🛇 CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): There is money to be made so prepare to make EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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your move if the right deal comes along. Rearrange whatever you must in order to get what you want. Even though your family will benefit, expect complaints.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be passionate, loving and attentive and you can avoid squabbles with a loved one. Volunteer to help a non-profit organization in your community. It will give you a sense of belonging and satisfaction and it won't break the bank.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Spread some joy. Get together with old friends or someone you haven't seen in a long time. The memories you share will help you move toward the new year with greater optimism. Make amends with anyone with whom

you had a falling out. OOO Birthday Baby: You are strong, steadfast and true to your own beliefs. You are original, charming and a master of the art of manipulation. You

are practical and a loyal friend. Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

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Wanderward

By DAVID

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below spacer in the puzzle — herizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find their and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftware letters shall the Wordshaper.

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and MARGARITA

BORJA IBA

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the all of the right, title, and interest of Defendan in and to the following property: Lot No. 021 T 48, situated in San Jose Village, Tinian Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 867 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadstral Plat No. 021 T 02, the original of which was registered with the Commonwealth Recorder as File No. 84-1597 or August 15, 1984, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 16, 2009, at the hour of 11:30 a.m., at the Courthouse in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. The

sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale

DATED, this 10th day of December, 2008

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

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McGrady's triple-double carries Rockets



McGrady Tracy notched his fourth career triple-double and first this season, Yao Ming scored 32 points and the Houston Rockets beat the

Denver Nuggets 108-96 on Tuesday night.

McGrady had 20 points and reached season highs in rebounds (14) and assists (10) for his first triple-double since last December. Ron Artest scored 20 points off the bench and backup point guard Aaron Brooks added 18 points for the Rockets, who've won five of their last seven games despite a seemingly unending rash of injuries.

Artest missed the last two games with a sprained right ankle and starting point guard Rafer Alston skipped this one with a strained left hamstring. Backup guard Von Wafer sat out with a sprained left ankle and reserve guard Brent Barry missed his ninth straight game with a torn muscle in his right calf.

McGrady has been bothered by a sore left knee all season, but he looked as spry and energetic as ever on Tuesday night. He had a triple-double by the end of the third quarter—15 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assistsand finished his big night with a 3-pointer in the final minute, his third of the game.

Carmelo Anthony scored 22 and J.R. Smith had 17 for the Nuggets, who had a fourgame winning streak snapped. Chauncey Billups scored eight points as Denver dropped to 16-5 since acquiring Billups from Detroit on Nov. 3.

three quarters and the reserves maintained the lead until Yao and McGrady returned after rests with about seven minutes left.

McGrady grabbed a rebound, Yao flipped in a hook shot and Brooks drove for a layup to put the Rockets up 96-88. Yao's two free throws with 2:44 left pushed Houston over 100 points and increased the lead to 11.

The Rockets opened the game with a 13-2 run, starting 5-for-6 from the field and grabbing the first seven rebounds. Denver pulled within five before Artest came off the bench with 3:56

The Rockets led by six after left in the first quarter and hit his first shot, a 3-pointer from the top of the key.

> Houston shot 54 percent (13for-24) in the first quarter, but led only 30-25. After missing seven of their first 10 shots, the Nuggets made 13 of their next 19 and Linas Kleiza's fast-break layup put Denver up 35-33 early in the second quarter.

> Denver went 7-for-11 from 3-point range in the first half and led 61-56 at the break.

> Shane Battier sank consecutive 3-pointers during a quick 8-0 run early in the third quarter that put Houston ahead 68-67.

McGrady had two assists and three rebounds over the next three minutes as the Rockets stretched the lead to 81-74.

He passed to Yao for another basket inside with 1:58 left in the third quarter for his 10th assist, completing the triple-double—he already had 15 points and 11 rebounds by then.

Houston led 85-79 after three quarters and Kleiza cut Denver's deficit in half with a 3-pointer with 10:22 left in the game.

Hornets 91, Grizzlies 84

At Memphis, Tennessee, Chris Paul had 18 points, nine assists and five steals and James Posey scored nine of his 15 points in the fourth quarter as New Orleans snapped Memphis' season-high, four-game winning streak.

David West also scored 18 points for the Hornets, who won for the fifth time in six games despite struggling from the field at times. Paul was just 3-of-10 from the field but made 11 of 12 free throws.

Rudy Gay led Memphis with 28 points and O. J. Mayo added 20.

Lakers 116, Knicks 114

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored nine of his 28 points in the last 7 1/2 minutes as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied from a 15-point halftime deficit to beat New York.

go-ahead basket with 1:03 remaining to give the Lakers (21-3) their 14th win in 16 games. Lamar Odom made his first start of the season in place of the ill Pau Gasol and had season-high totals of 17 points and 12 rebounds.

Nate Robinson scored a season-high 33 points for the Knicks but missed a short jumper with about 12 seconds to play. David Lee had 18 points and 14 rebounds, and Quentin Richardson also scored 18 points.

Clippers 98, Thunder 88

At Oklahoma City, Zach Randolph had 22 points and 13 rebounds for his fourth straight double-double, and rookie Eric Gordon fueled a 10-point run in the fourth quarter as Los Angeles won its third straight.

Gordon finished with 22 points, Baron Davis scored 19, and Marcus Camby added 13 points and 15 rebounds as all of the Clippers starters' reached double figures. Los Angeles has won three straight for the first time since starting last season 4-0.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 23 points, and Jeff Green and Chris Wilcox scored 13 apiece. The Thunder are now 1-12 under interim coach Scott Brooks, the same record they had when P.J. Carlesimo was fired.

Bobcats 110, **Bulls 101, OT**

At Charlotte, North Carolina, D.J. Augustin scored a careerhigh 29 points while outplaying fellow rookie point guard Derrick Rose, and undermanned Charlotte snapped a seven-game losing streak by beating Chicago.

Rose, the No. 1 pick, was held to six points on 3-of-16 shooting, with seven assists. Ben Gordon scored 25 points and Tyrus Thomas added 22 for the Bulls, who dropped to 3-10 on the road and failed to reach .500 for the first time in a month.

Emeka Okafor added 20 points, 13 rebounds and four blocks, and Raymond Felton scored 21 points as the Bobcats persevered with a small lineup.

Trail Blazers 109, Kings 77

At Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored 29 points before sitting out the fourth quarter and LaMarcus Aldridge had 15 points and 10 rebounds as Portland beat Sacramento to snap a three-game losing streak.

Playing with a splint on his injured right pinkie finger, Roy fell just short of scoring 30 points for the fourth straight game. The All-Star guard tore a tendon in his finger while scoring a career-high 38 against the Los Angeles Clippers last Friday.

John Salmons had 16 of his 21 points in the first quarter for the Kings and he didn't score in the second half.

Cheeks: Blame me for slow start

PHILADELPHIA (AP)— Sitting in front of a Philadelphia 76ers banner and behind a 76ers microphone, fired head coach Maurice Cheeks took the blame.

Three days after the team replaced him, Cheeks met with reporters on Tuesday to thank the fans and take responsibility for the poor start of a team with playoff aspirations.

Sometimes, Cheeks said, it an be the coach's fault a team does not perform as expected.

"In my case, it was the coach," he said.

Team president Ed Stefanski fired Cheeks on Saturday after the Sixers stumbled to a 9-14 start.

Last season, Cheeks and Stefanski orchestrated a remarkable midseason turnaround that helped the 76ers recover from an 18-30 start to make the playoffs. In the offseason, they acquired star power forward Elton Brand and appeared ready to contend in the Eastern Conference.

But the team struggled early

Stefanski fired Cheeks and replaced him with assistant general manager Tony DiLeo.

"Things don't always work out the way you expect them to," Cheeks said. "I take solace in the fact I did the best I could."

Cheeks said his affection for the fans and the franchise—where he played 11 seasons—prompted him to agree to a news conference at the 76ers home arena

"I think it would have been selfish for me to just pick up and leave and go and not show my appreciation to the people that have supported me," he said. "I pretty much grew up in this town.'

Cheeks carefully rearranged the tape recorders in front of him as he spoke and joked with reporters, telling them he wanted to thank a lot of people without having to run up his cell phone bill.

He refused to place blame for the team's poor performance on anyone but himself.

"Sometimes being fired is

and had lost eight of 10 before one of the things that entails being a head coach," he said.

Houston Rockets' Tracy McGrady, left, drives past Denver

Nuggets' J.R. Smith (1) during the second half of an NBA

basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2008, in Houston.

Cheeks said he would be open to another position with the team, where he was a star point guard on the Sixers' last championship team in 1983, although he has not been approached about a job.

"I've been a part of this town a long time and I don't plan on going anywhere," he said. "If the opportunity is there for me to be in the organization, I'm more than happy to do that."

A four-time All-Star, Cheeks spent 15 seasons in the NBA before retiring in 1993. The 76ers retired his jersey in 1995.

Cheeks was a member of the coaching staff when the 76ers went to the finals in 2001 and, after a head coaching stint in Portland, was named the 76ers head coach in 2005. He finished with a 122-152 record in Philadelphia.

The 76ers beat Washington 104-89 on Saturday in their first game under DiLeo. Philadelphia hosts Milwaukee on Wednesday.

Furcal near 3-year deal to return to Braves ATLANTA Year Award in 2000 and making



Shortstop Rafael Fur-

cal is close to accepting a \$30 million, three-year offer to return to the Atlanta Braves. The 31-year-old began his major league career with Atlanta, playing for the Braves from 2000-05. He spent the last three seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

"He liked the idea of coming back to Atlanta, but there hasn't been any formal agreement," Furcal's agent, Paul Kinzer, said Tuesday. "Everything is preliminary. The whole thing with coming back home intrigued him. He still has a house here in Atlanta."

His deal would contain an option for 2012 that could become guaranteed.

Furcal hit .357 last season with five homers and 16 RBIs but had back surgery July 3 and was limited to 36 games and 143 at-bats. He returned to the lineup Sept. 24 and played in four games during the final week of the season.

"It's pretty close," Kinzer said. "The A's are out. My last thing to him was sleep on it."

Furcal was 16 and still living in his native Dominican Republic when the Braves signed him to his first contract on Nov. 9, 1996. He was a fixture at the top of the lineup from 2000-05, winning the NL Rookie of the 2003 the All-Star team.

After hitting .300 with 15 the Dodgers, Furcal had ankle mail messages.

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MLB BRIEFS

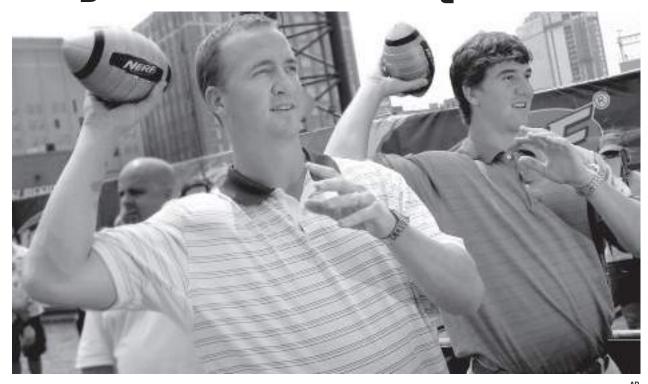
Ibanez and Phillies finalize \$31.5M, 3-yr contract

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Outfielder Raul Ibanez and the Philadelphia Phillies have finalized a \$31.5 million, three-year contract. The deal, agreed to on Friday, was subject to the physical and was announced Tuesday. Ibanez will take over in left from Pat Burrell, who became a free agent. The 36-year-old Ibanez hit .293 last season with 43 doubles, 23 home runs and 110 RBIs with the Seattle Mariners. Ibanez adds yet another left-handed bat to the Phillies lineup behind Ryan Howard and Chase Utley. Ibanez has a .286 career average with 182 home runs and 794 RBIs for the Mariners and Kansas City Royals. He gets a \$2 million signing bonus, payable this year, a \$6.5 million salary next season and \$11.5 million each in 2010 and 2011.

Yanks and General Motors sponsorship deal ends

NEW YORK (AP)—General Motors Corp. won't be the automotive sponsor for the New York Yankees when the team's new stadium opens next year. Yankees chief operating officer Lonn Trost said Tuesday that Toyota and Audi will take over as the club's auto sponsors. The new deals are for ballpark signage, as was the previous contract with GM. General Motors was a Yankees sponsor from 2006-08. "We understand their financial condition," Trost said. "I think it was a mutual understanding." GM spokesman John McDonald said that in light of the current economic conditions, the automaker is reviewing all of its sponsorship activities as part of a plan to cut its marketing and promotions budget by 20 percent. In addition, contracts with about six other major league teams expire at the end of this year, and those deals are being reviewed as well. GM also recently decided against renewing a similar contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates, but its broader contract with MLB runs through 2010.

Peyton and Eli: QB brothers in Pro Bowl



This is a June 14, 2008 file photo showing Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning, left, and his brother Eli Manning, quarterback for the New York Giants, tossing footballs during a promotional event in New York.



NEW YORK (AP)— Peyton and Eli Manning were voted to the Pro Bowl on Tuesday, the first time quarterback-playing broth-

ers have been chosen for the same allstar game. The Indianapolis Colts' Peyton will make his ninth appearance in 11 seasons and will start for the AFC. It will be the first appearance for Eli, who was the MVP for the New York Giants in last February's Super Bowl. He will be on the NFC team.

The Giants also landed the oldest Pro Bowler ever, 44-year-old kicker John Carney, who was signed at the start of the season as a short-term fill-in for the injured Lawrence Tynes. He has made 27 of 29 field goals - the two he missed were blocked—and has kept the now-recovered Tynes inactive for all but two games.

The New York Jets led all teams with seven Pro Bowlers, including quarter-back Brett Favre, who will be in his 10th Pro Bowl, but his first representing the AFC. There will be six each from the Giants, Minnesota Vikings and Tennessee Titans in the game, to be played on Feb. 8 in Honolulu.

The Titans have the NFL's best record at 12-2 and won their first 10 games before losing to the Jets.

"If we were the Dallas Cowboys, it would easily be 12 of us going to the Pro Bowl," said one of Tennessee's Pro Bowlers, safety Chris Hope. "A lot of people say it's a small market or we

haven't been around long enough to gain the recognition like the other teams.

"Where a team like the Dallas Cowboys has a great season, they send half their team," Hope said. "We have the best record in the league. Only a few of us get recognized and only a few of us get to go. It's just a blessing to be one of the ones to have the opportunity, but I still think there's some guys that didn't get a chance to go."

On the other hand, Pittsburgh had only three: linebackers James Farrior and James Harrison and safety Troy Polamalu. The Steelers (11-3) are just a game behind the Titans and can take the lead for home-field advantage in the AFC with a win in Tennessee on Sunday.

While Peyton Manning will start for the AFC, the starting quarterback for the NFC will be Kurt Warner, who led the Arizona Cardinals to the NFC West title. It will be the 37-year-old Warner's fourth Pro Bowl but his first since 2001, when he was with St. Louis and made it for the third straight season.

With Warner on the NFC squad are the Cardinals' two starting wide receivers, Anquan Boldin and Larry Fitzgerald, both voted in as starters.

"What I felt coming in was that I could play the quarterback position for this team as well as anybody in the league," said Warner, who came to camp as the backup to third-year man Matt Leinart. "Whether that means going to a Pro Bowl or having certain stats, I never really had that perspec-

tive. I just had the perspective that I felt like I could really play this game as well as I ever have. And I felt like I've done that this year."

Warner and the 39-year-old Favre, who leads the NFL in interceptions with 17, are far from the oldest Pro Bowlers this year.

Those honors go to Carney and 42-year-old Giants punter Jeff Feagles. Carney is 2 years older than another former Pro Bowl kicker, Jan Stenerud, who was 42 when he made it in 1984. Stenerud is the only kicker in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

Carney and Feagles also set records for the longest gap ever between Pro Bowl selections: Carney made it in 1994 with San Diego and Feagles in 1995 with Arizona.

The AFC roster contains 17 first-time all-stars and the NFC roster contains 14. One of the AFC's first-timers was Texans defensive end Mario Williams, the first overall pick in the 2006 draft ahead of Reggie Bush and Vince Young, a choice criticized both in Houston and around the NFL.

"It feels great to finally get in there and see what it's like. It's just an honor," Williams said.

Dallas, which had a record 13 Pro Bowlers when it went 13-3 last season, had five this year as wide receiver Terrell Owens and quarterback Tony Romo both missed out.

Tight end Tony Gonzalez of Kansas City made his 10th straight Pro Bowl NFL BRIEFS

Colts uncertain whether Addai, Sanders will play

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The Indianapolis Colts could get Bob Sanders and Joseph Addai back in the lineup Thursday night. Then again, maybe not. Coach Tony Dungy told reporters Tuesday he thought both would play against Jacksonville and both were listed as full participants in Tuesday's practice. But after practice, team president Bill Polian offered a different assessment. "Joseph is questionable, and Bob, I think, is, too," Polian told NFL Network. "I would say Bob's chances are probably 51-49 of playing." Addai sat out Sunday's game, a 31-21 victory over Detroit, with a right shoulder injury. Sanders has missed four of the last five games with swelling in his right knee, the same knee on which he had surgery while missing five games earlier this season with a high ankle sprain. Sanders, the 2007 NFL Defensive Player of the Year, has missed nine games in 2008. The Colts will be without middle linebacker Gary Brackett, the defensive captain. Brackett has missed the last two games after cracking a bone in his lower right leg. Dungy initially said Brackett would miss at least two games, but the short week will force him to miss another game.

Pats' Brady joins teammates at charity event

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—Tom Brady says he lives and dies with every New England Patriots win and loss while he sits out rehabbing his injured left knee. The quarterback, wearing a bright red sweater, made a surprise appearance Tuesday night at the Patriots' annual Salvation Army Holiday Party for about 200 children. He spoke briefly with reporters after signing autographs and posing for pictures, b t did not address his health. Brady said after another charity appearance last month he's doing well in his recovery from an Oct. 6 operation to repair torn ligaments and follow-up surgery to treat a postoperative infection. He's been rehabilitating at Gillette Stadium.

Lawyer: Vick may be moved to halfway house in Jan

NORFOLK, Va. (AP)—Former NFL star Michael Vick could be out of federal prison and in a Virginia halfway house by Jan. 20, one of his attorneys told a federal bankruptcy judge Tuesday. Vick is serving a 23-month prison term in Leavenworth, Kan., for bankrolling a dogfighting conspiracy and is scheduled to be released from federal custody around July 20. Last month, Vick also pleaded guilty to a state dogfighting charge, avoiding more prison time. The case's resolution also cleared the way for his early release from prison and possible transition into a halfway house. The suspended Atlanta Falcons quarterback's long-distance absence has complicated his bankruptcy proceedings in Virginia, said Michael Blumenthal, one of Vick's bankruptcy attorneys. Conversely, the bankruptcy case might complicate plans for Vick's transfer. U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Frank Santoro ordered Vick's appearance at a bankruptcy hearing set for Jan. 30 in Newport News. Paperwork to bring Vick from Leavenworth could take weeks to process and could delay the halfway house program, Blumenthal said.

and Tampa Bay linebacker Derrick Brooks made it for the 11th time. He had 10 straight, missed last season and returned this year.

"I'm appreciative of the respect by my teammates as well as my peers," Brooks said. "I feel like I really worked hard this offseason to take my game back to the upper level in which I thought I could play. I also thank my defensive teammates for keeping our defense at the top of the league all season."

Seattle's only representative is offensive tackle Walter Jones, but he will miss the game after undergoing seasonending knee surgery last week.

Among those who missed out were Miami quarterback Chad Pennington and Atlanta's John Abraham.

Pennington was released by the Jets after Favre was obtained in a trade and has led the Dolphins, 1-15 last season, to a 9-5 record and a three-way tie for the lead in the AFC East. Abraham, primarily a defensive end, is third in the NFL in sacks with 15.

Pennington lost out to Peyton Manning, Favre and Denver's Jay Cutler. Abraham was beaten out by the Giants' Justin Tuck, Carolina's Julius Peppers and Minnesota's Jared Allen.

Titans running back Chris Johnson was the only rookie to make the Pro Bowl.

Four teams had no representatives: Cincinnati and Jacksonville in the AFC, St. Louis and winless Detroit in the NFC. Those teams have nine wins among them.

JoePa agrees to extension at Penn St. through 2013



STATE COL-LEGE, Pa. (AP)—Penn State coach Joe Paterno has a

new three-year contract extension to go along with his new hip.

The Hall of Famer and winningest coach in major college football history has agreed to a new deal with the university, the athletic department said Tuesday in a statement.

The agreement will provide "for the opportunity of Coach Joe Paterno leading the football program through the 2011 season," the statement said. JoePa turns 82 on Sunday.

"It was also agreed that the parties might reevaluate their circumstances and alter the arrangement by either shortening or extending its length as necessary," the statement said.

The agreement ends months of speculation about Paterno's future since his current deal had expired following this season. University president Graham Spanier and Paterno had announced in the spring that Paterno didn't need something in writing to stay on a job he's had a record 43 years.

Yet contract questions still dogged both sides until Nov. 22, when Paterno said after the Big Ten title-clinching win over Michigan State that he planned to return in 2009.

He had hip replacement surgery the next day. Back on his feet and easing back into his coaching routine, Paterno told reporters last week that he wasn't worried about getting an extension done before the No. 6 Nittany Lions play No. 5 Southern California in the Rose Bowl on New Year's Day.

"If we can work out something that they are comfortable with and I'm comfortable with before the bowl, fine," Paterno said. "I just get tired of recruits asking me, 'How long are you going to be there? But most of them are fine."

Terms of the extension were not announced.

Records released by the State Employees Retirement System last year put his 2007 salary at about \$512,000. The state data did not reflect other sources of compensation such as bonuses or outside income.

By salary alone though, Paterno's contract is nowhere close to those of other big names such as Alabama's Nick Saban, the highest paid coach at \$4 million a year.

As for his health, Paterno has said he is feeling fine and that rehab is going well. He's eager to get back to the sideline, where he hasn't coached from since late September.

Paterno stayed vague about how

much longer he thought he could

"There's no reason for me not to think that I can go for a while," he said. "Now how long is a while? I don't know."

Counting Paterno's 16 seasons as a Penn State assistant before taking the head-coaching job in 1966, the 2009 campaign would be JoePa's 60th year on the Nittany Lion coaching staff.

Also Tuesday, Penn State sophomore Aaron Maybin was selected a first-team AP All-American. The defensive end is fourth in the nation with 12 sacks.

Center A.Q. Shipley was picked to the second team, while guard Rich Ohrnberger and receiver and return man Derrick Williams were named to the third team.

3 more teams interested in Bud Cup Lady Kingfishers advance to U12 finals

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

REPORTER



Three more teams are keen on joining the

2008-2009 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League, which starts tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

coordinator and League Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands president Elias Rangamar said the CNMI Junior Nationals, MIGS, and Boy Garcia's team have shown an interest in competing in the Bud Cup.

So far, the league has four teams in Docomo Pacific Hoopaholics, Ol'Aces I and II,

Rangamar said they are giving interested squads until Jan. 9 to complete the league's requirements, which include the \$500 entrance fee.

"It will be great if we can have one more team. An eight-team field is an excel-Rangamar lent number,"

Bud Cup will have an early Christmas presentation for basketball enthusiasts, as it will open the league tonight with a double-header.

The Hoopaholics, who will be coached by John Sablan will play in the first game against the Ol'Aces I of Rangamar. Game time is at 7pm. In the second game at 8:30pm, the Ol'Aces II will duel JCN of coach Marvin Deocares

Deocares is expected to field in the Bud Cup the core of his C&R/NRG team, which placed fourth in the inaugural PILCOWA-San Miguel caging.

Garcia's squad and MIGS are likely to do the same thing, after finishing first and second in the San Miguel league, respectively.

After tonight's matches, the Bud Cup will take a holiday break and resume on Jan. 12. Games will be played every Monday, Wednesday, and

For more information, contact Rangamar at 664-2502.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



William S. Reyes Elementary School

booked a finals ticket in the girls division of the 2008 NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League after outclassing Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School in the crossover semifinals, 2-1. Thursday at the Garapan Elementary School Field

The Lady Kingfishers made all their goals in the second half with Scarla Renguul nailing one in the 27th minute and teammate Mary Jane Rengiil firing the second goal for WSR in the 38th minute.

GTC scored the first goal of the match in the 4th minute of the first half.

Lady Kingfishers coach Melissa Dickinson said they will go all out in the finals since this is the first time that they moved into the title game.

'Since I took over the team, the highest place we achieved was fourth last year. We hope to win the title with out teamwork, good communication, and peaceful play," Dickinson said.

Besides Rengiil and Renguul, other members of WSR's girls team are Almina Deleon Guerrero, Alyssa Benavente, Gina Rudolph. Guillerma Corpuz, Melony David, Alyssa Villagas, Earlynn Ngirlamuut, Maria Valencia, Luisa Marie Camacho, and Eddianne Cabrera.

WSR will play in tomorrow's finals the winner of the Whisperings Palms/Brilliant Star vs. No. 1 team in the Southern Group.

Only the Northern Group had

completed its standings in the regular season with GTC finishing first and Whispering Palms/ Brilliant Star placing second in the girls division.

Only the top two teams from the Northern and Southern groups advance to the playoffs.

In the boys division, Whispering Palms/Brilliant Star finished first in the Northern Group, while Saipan International School was second.

The title and consolation matches in this year's U12 league will be played at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Consolation games will be played starting at 1pm, while the girls championship is set for 2:30pm, The boys title match will be played at 3:30pm, while an award ceremony will take place at the conclusion of the championship match.

FIBA

From Page 28

lic will have a more enjoyable plaving venue." the FIBA Oceania secretary general added.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar acknowledged receiving FIBA Oceania's reports and the deadline for CNMI's commitment to host the Oceania caging.

"I have met with our director (Division of Sports and Recreation's Joe Lizama) and DCCA secretary Cecilia Celes regarding the issues of the Ada Gym. We are organizing a working group to tackle the issues and we are waiting the assessment of the facility from a private firm before we visit the Legislature and the Govport," said Rangamar, who is willing to step down as coach of the Women's Nationals to be at the forefront of the working group and ensure that the Oceania caging on Saipan will go ahead as scheduled.

Rangamar is also hoping they could get assistance from the private sector despite the financial problems the Commonwealth and the rest of the world

are facing right now.

'We have not received a favorable response from the private sector, but we will keep trying. Just like in the 2006 Micronesian Games, we had problems, but we pulled it through. So I believe we can do the same if we help each other," the BANMI head said.

Rangamar said if immediate major repairs at the Ada Gym

cannot be done due to funding problems, BANMI is looking at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium as an alternate venue.

"If the Ada Gym is not ready, we have inquired from the administrator of the NMC Gym about the possibility of holding games there," Rangamar said.

BANMI's plan to address

the problems with the facilities must meet FIBA Oceania's approval or CNMI might lose its hosting rights.

"If we are not confident that the issues at the Ada Gvm are properly addressed by the end of the year, we will seek an alternative host," Smith said.

Palau and Samoa also submitted bids to host the Oceania caging next year.

NAMAULAEG

From Page 28

bile tried to put theory to practice when she grappled with Namauleg in the waning seconds of the opening round.

Namauleg and Sambile continued their fierce fight in the second round with the former's aggressiveness getting the better of the latter. At one point, Namauleg had Sambile pinned on one of the sides of the octagon and even managed to execute a headlock against her overmatched opponent.

Sambile had her moments too as her speed and grappling skills left Namauleg catching her breath a couple of times during breaks when celebrity referee Frank "The Crank" Camacho had to step in and separate the two combatants.

ernor's Office to ask for sup-

In the end, neither fighter managed to knock the other out as the match went to the scorecards with judges Dave Celis Sr., John Blanco, and L.J. Castro all scoring the fight 20-18 in favor of Namauleg.

After the match, Namauleg thanked her family for training and supporting her and Soledad "The Rebel" Tenorio for giving her a lucky charm prior to the MMA fight.

It can be recalled that Tenorio was the same woman that beat Namauleg in the islands' first ever female boxing match last September.

In all 11 of the 12 scheduled MMA matches in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation went on without a hitch with only the fight between Jason Tarkong and Robert Palacios shelved because the latter failed to make weight.

"The fight was cancelled due to circumstances beyond our control. Robert was 17 pounds overweight and was unable to make the 10-pound grace weight

agreed by the two fighters after the weigh-ins," said Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez.

He added that even though the original fight weight was supposed to be 175 lbs, Tarkong still agreed to fight Palacios even if was much heavier.

"If Robert would have made an effort to at least lose seven lbs. by 10pm that night, Jason would have fought him. He did not make an effort therefore the fight was called off. Trench Tech has suspended Robert indefinitely for breach of contract and false information. He lied about his weight. Originally he

told us he was 170 lbs. Maybe his scale is from a Cracker Jack box," said Alvarez.

Nate "The Terrible" Flores, meanwhile, opted not to fight Guam United Fight Team's Leo "The Assassin" Cing because the Guam fighter was 13 lbs. overweight.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Boston

New Jersey

Philadelphia

New York

Toronto

Orlando

Atlanta

Miami

Charlotte

W

23 2

12 11

11 14

10 14

Southeast Division

19 6

15

12 12

8 18

9

NBA STANDINGS

Pct

.920

.522

.440

.417

.417

.760

.625

.500

.308

GB

12

12 1/2

12 1/2

3 1/2

6 1/2

11 1/2

13 1/2

CPA

"Leo did lose eight lbs, by 10pm that night but it wasn't enough and Nate ended up not taking the fight. Replacing Nate was fellow local warrior and Saipanese fighter, Maitai Charley. All in all, everything worked out great despite the glitches," said Alvarez.

SINGLES

From Page 28

then teamed up with him to take home the men's doubles title against the pair of Rolly Bugarin and Archie Montecillo.

Benjie's mom also got some hardware of her own, as Linda Decena captured the 4.0 women's single championship after beating Ellen Uy, 9-7, in the finals.

Jonathan San Nicolas, meanwhile, finished the tournament without a loss and capped it off by defeating James Clemente, 6-1, 6-2, in the men's 3.0 singles finals.

He then teamed up with James San Nicolas to capture the men's 3.0 doubles championship against the tandem of James Clemente and Manny Sencio.

Jake Castro also did some heavy lifting in the men's 2.0 single finals, as he beat Merwin Ramos, 8-5, to annex the championship.

Ramos, however, got sweet revenge when he partnered with Jason Atalig to win the 2.0 men's

double finals against Castro and Jun de Gamo, 6-2, 5-7, 7-5.

Jimmy Casauran, for his part, is the champion of the men's beginners singles after he outlasted Rene Galvez in the finals

But Casauran wasn't as fortunate in the beginners doubles title match as he and Ramon Santiago succumbed to Galvez and Alvin Reyes and settled for the runner-up plumb.

In the 2.0 women's single, Jennifer Uy took the championship trophy after defeating Leah Cunanan with the score of 8-5.

In the women's 4.0 doubles, Emily Kwon and Ellen Uy defeated the team of Linda Decena and Emy Bugarin, 6-4,6-4, to win the tiara.

In the 4.0 mixed doubles, Linda Decena teamed up with James Clemente to outplay Emily Kwon and Manny Gabor, 6-3, 6-2, en route to the championship.

Organizer Tinian Tennis Association would like to once again thank the 12th Tinian Municipal Council, Mayor's Office, Tinian Youth Center, PTI, Island Garden, and Tinian Ice & Water for their support of the 2008 Tinian Tennis Tournament.

Washington 4 18 .182 **Central Division**

Cleveland 20 4 .833 Detroit 13 .591 Chicago 11 13 .458 Milwaukee 11 15 .423

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division New Orleans 14

San Antonio 15 .652 1/2 8 Houston 16 9 .640 1 1/2 Dallas 10 .565 9 16 .360 7 Memphis **Northwest Division** .680 Denver 17 8 Portland 16 10 .615 1 1/2 Utah 11 .577 2 1/2 Minnesota 4 .167 12 1/2 20

24

.077

15 1/2

Pacific Division

Oklahoma City 2

L.A. Lakers 21 3 .875 Phoenix 10 .600 6 1/2 L.A. Clippers 7 17 .292 14

18 Golden State .280 14 1/2 Sacramento 7 19

Yesterday's Games

Charlotte 110, Chicago 101, OT New Orleans 91, Memphis 84 L.A. Clippers 98. Oklahoma City 88 Houston 108, Denver 96 Portland 109, Sacramento 77 L.A. Lakers 116. New York 114

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

0

0

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS Men's Division DCCA

6

Freedom Air Beach Bovs 5 Joeten Motors No Zone 3 Legislature DLNR 3 P&S 3 Docomo 3 Law & Order PSS 2 CHC CUC Customs 2 DEQ/CRM boowaaH 0

Women's Division NMC 7

0

Mayors

DCCA Finance 2 CHC

NMC

From Page 28

ing a two-run single in the first inning. NMC failed to score in the next two and had only one run in the fourth inning.

Finance's Pauline Tudela's two-run triple cut NMC's lead to four runs, 2-6, after one complete inning and Finance went on to tie the game in the fourth inning, 7-all, after scoring two runs each in the second and

fourth and one in the third.

But a two-run homer from Kuki Pangelinan at the top of the fifth allowed NMC to regain the lead, 9-7.

Finance never recovered from thereon absorbing its fourth loss in six games.

MEN'S No Zone 15. Customs 11

In the first game, No Zone extended its winning run to three outclassing Customs, 15-11.

Ned Norita led No Zone' win

going 4-for-4 at-bat, scoring three runs and recording three RBIs.

With the victory, No Zone improved its record to 6-2 and moved up from a tie for fifth place to solo fourth.

Customs dropped to a 2-5

Freedom Air 18, PIC 7

Three days after its winning run was halted by No Zone, Freedom Air quickly regained its bearings thumping Pacific Islands Club, 18-7, in the last game of the night.

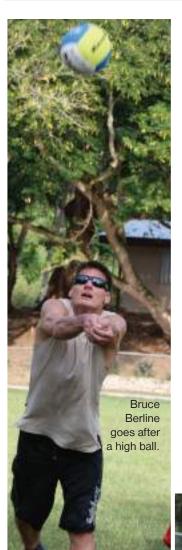
Centerfielder Roy Celis had an immaculate stint at-bat hitting 4-for-4. He had a solo homer in the fourth and finished with three RBIs besides scoring three runs.

Leftfielder Shane Yamada was also spotless at-bat, going 4-for-4. He made three doubles and two RBIs.

Freedom Air now has a 6-1 record for third place, half a game behind the undefeated Commonwealth Ports Authority (6-0) and a win behind DCCA (7-0).

SAIPAN TRIBUNE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008 **27**

2nd Annual Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament





Jeff Elliot reaches for the ball. Looking on is teammate Louise Oakley.



Mili Saiki serves during the 2nd Annual Reverse Co-ed Grass Volleyball Tournament Saturday at



Heather Kennedy falters in a toss play.



Dale Roberts taps the ball near the net.





Melody Matson keeps her eye on the ball, while teammate Bruce Berline gets ready to help.



Randy Steele bends to hit the ball.

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The ball bounces off Tyce Mister's head.



Angie Mister chases the ball at the net.

Three more teams are keen on joining the 2008-2009 BANMI-Budweiser Cup Men's Islandwide Basketball League, which start tonight at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

26



McGrady's triple-double carries Rockets

Tracy McGrady notched his fourth career triple-double and first this season, Yao Ming scored 32 points and the Houston Rockets beat the Denver Nuggets 108-96 on Tuesday night.



28 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

FIBA: Ada Gym not up to standards

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

NE of the facilities to be used for the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament did not make the grade and the CNMI as host will have until the end of this month to assure FIBA Oceania that a program is in place to address the problem.

FIBA Oceania secretary general Steve Smith in an e-mail to Saipan Tribune said the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is below international standards and the expectations of FIBA Oceania as far as hosting the Oceania caging is concerned. "The Ada Gym is in need of a comprehensive

refurbishment and upgrading," said Smith, who was on Saipan last October to inspect the Ada Gym and the Marianas High School Gymnasium

after the CNMI through the Basketball Association of Northern Marianas Islands was awarded the hosting rights for the Oceania caging mid this year.

The MHS Gym made the grade and needs only minor repairs.

"We would be happy to play some of the games at the MHS Gym, but we have too many teams and too many games to conduct for the entire competition, therefore we need to use the Ada Gym," Smith said.

The Oceania caging will have competitions in both the men's and women's divisions and aside



Tahiti,

American Samoa. The Oceania caging is scheduled for June and will have four games each playing day starting after lunch and practice sessions in the morning.

Smith had already sent BANMI a copy of the facilities evaluation for both gyms and is hoping

from the CNMI, to hear a word from the local basketball association at the end of the year.

Smith added they are willing to help BANMI with some of the equipment needed for the tournament, but major repairs should be handled by the local organizing committee through the help of the government.

"FIBA Oceania will be assisting BANMI with the supply of some of the specific basketball equipment for the Ada Gym. But fundamental building works are needed to be undertaken by the local organizing committee," Smith said.

"We re very keen that this can be done, as the Ada Gym is home of basketball not only for our event, but for the entire CNMI. When this is done, the pub-

See FIBA on Page 26

amauleg beats Sambile via unanimous decision

By MARK RABAGO

mark rabago@saipantribune.com ASSISTANT EDITOR

Last of a three-part series

Tara "The Tarantula" Namauleg made history last Friday when she beat Jenipy "So-High La" Sambile in the CNMI's first ever

MMA female fight in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation.

The jam-packed crowd at the Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort got their money's worth as the two ladies got it on early and often

in a bout the rivaled the evening's other MMA matches.

Namauleg, who trained with his brothers in the backyard of their house, used her weight to great advantage against the more technical Sambile, who underwent a three-week crash

course in MMA at the Trench Tech Gym.

Sambile was on the defensive majority of the first round, as Namauleg bombed away with her straights and hooks. There was a bit of ground action too, where Sam-See NAMAULAEG on Page 26

Tara "The Tarantula" Namauleg is about to elbow Jenipy "So-High La" Sambile in the CNMI's first ever MMA female fight in Trench Warz IX: The Annihilation last Friday at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Singles, doubles titles for Benjie Decena



Men's 4.0 doubles champ Benjie and Sonny Decana are flanked by Rolly Bugarin and Archie Montecillo after their finals match last weekend in the 2008 Tinian Tennis Tournament.

By MARK RABAGO ASSISTANT EDITOR

As expected, youth netter Benjie Decena dominated the 2008 Tinian Tennis

Tournament by winning both

the men's 4.0 singles and men's 4.0 doubles championships this past weekend at the Tinian Youth Center in San Jose

The CNMI North Pacific Team mainstay first beat his father Sonny in the finals of the men's singles, 6-3, 6-4, See SINGLES on Page 26

REPORTER

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Seven and still counting.

NMC keeps winning streak

Northern Mar-College ianas nailed its seventh

win in as many games after thwarting Finance, 9-7, in the women's division game in the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

NMC is a win away from

sweeping the second round of the three-round robin regular season and is four games ahead of its closest pursuer—defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (3-2).

A six-run top of the first gave NMC control of the game and although Finance tied the game after four innings, the former shut out the latter in the last three to preserve the win.

Shortstop Joyce Taro anchored NMC's good start mak-

See NMC on Page 26



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Team members and coaches for the NMC Proas pose for a photo shortly after defeating Finance in the women's division game in the 2008 Inter Government/Business Softball League Monday night at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.